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# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-203
Friday
19 October 1990

# Daily Report
## Near East & South Asia

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**NOTICE TO READERS:** An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Arab League Council Emergency Session in Tunis

### 'Aziz Comments on 'Arafat Speech

*JN1810155190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Tunis, 18 Oct (INA)—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said the current stage for the Arab nation is one of the most sensitive stages in the history of this nation and the Arab League.

In a speech in which he commented on the speech given by state of Palestine President Yasir 'Arafat at the emergency session of the Arab League Council here last night, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz said that the Zionist entity would not have been established on our territory in the first place; and would not have been able to remain, expand, and threaten the Arab nation for the past 40 years had it not been supported militarily, politically, and economically by the major colonialist powers in the region.

The deputy prime minister said that spiritual values will triumph and our spirits will be liberated from the effects of this U.S.-Israeli age. They will become free of this rottenness that has controlled them for many years.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz added that we find ourselves now in historic times in which we can only utter words from our conscience and out of a sense of pan-Arab responsibility, especially because we are at a stage that is one of the most sensitive in the history of this nation and the institution under whose wing we meet today. Before I talk about this subject, I would like to refer to the absence of our brother and dear colleague, Secretary-General Mr. Chedli Klibi, whom we have lost because of the developments that have taken place. This man, who on such occasions spoke with a pan-Arab conscience, has been forced by his conscience to be absent from us and to renounce his responsibility because this responsibility could not have been performed as it should. I think that many share my feelings. I express the most honorable salutation and greatest appreciation to him personally and for what he has done for this institution, which is being subjected to rifts and even more dangerous things than that, and, unfortunately, falsification.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz addressed his speech to president Yasir 'Arafat saying:

Mr. President, we met here in July. Had we then recorded what happened during that meeting, we would see that your speech today contains much of what you said then. Perhaps I will also be repeating myself and the things I said then in many things I say today. Today, as I pointed out earlier, there is a crisis, which was not there in July. However, a fact that is more important than this crisis was present in July, and we are still facing it today. It is a true fact we were shying away from by being polite and civil. We are now facing it and it is exploding in our faces; namely, defining the priorities regarding the Arab regimes. What are the real priorities of the Arab regimes? In their official statements, these regimes say that their priorities are the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict since the Palestine question is the central cause and the Arab-Israeli conflict is the most important issue in the region. However, Palestine, the country whose cause it is, called for a meeting of the Arab countries last July to deal with a development that portended aggression against the Palestine question; that is the U.S. decision to freeze the dialogue with the PLO, which was very dangerous in its clear implications because it prophesied a new stage in U.S. treatment of not only the Palestine question, but the Arab nation as a whole.

He noted that when Palestine called for a meeting, some attended and others did not. And today, when Palestine calls for a meeting to discuss what happened in Jerusalem, because it is more than a massacre as struggler Yasir 'Arafat indicated, again, some attend and others are absent. Now, clearly and without any room for civility, the issue of the Arab nation's priorities is being emphasized for us, as are the priorities of the national leaderships of this nation that clings to its aspirations and not those of its enemies.

He said that the situation in the Arab region clarifies beyond a shadow of a doubt the issue of priorities. It proves a reality we concealed in the past, which is that some have priorities other than that of reserving national and pan-Arab potentials to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict in the interests of the Arab nation. Now there is the crisis to which president Yasir 'Arafat referred, and which he termed the Gulf crisis. President 'Arafat called for an Arab solution. I say yes. Every problem we face must have an Arab solution if we are really Arabs and if we really belong to the Arab nation. However, when dealing with this issue or any other, when we talk about an Arab solution, the priorities regarding this solution must be defined.

'Aziz said: We do not accept that priorities should be changed. As for us, our option was, is, and will continue to be the option selected by the Arab nation more than 40 years ago when this institution was established. It is an option that has lasted for decades as the major option for Arab struggle, the core of which is the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. If we talk about a solution we must define our priorities, whether the solution is Arab or international. Basically and practically, we are in favor of the Arab solution, mainly because we are Arabs. What do we have before our eyes today? We have agreed for decades that the Zionist entity would not have been established on our land in the first place and would not have then survived, expanded, and posed a threat to us for the past 40 years had it not been for the military, economic, and political support of the major colonialist powers in the region.

Tariq 'Aziz added: In the beginning, Britain was the major colonialist power in the region. Then in the fifties, France became the major colonialist power in the region, fighting the sons of the Arab people in Algeria and the Arab Maghreb. Later, the United States became the primary imperialist power in the world and the region. Had it not been for the United States, Israel would not have been able to launch its aggression of 1967, would not have been able to maintain the territories it occupied, and would not have been able to expand this occupation through threats and aggression up until this moment. Where is the United States now, and whom is it confronting and threatening? This fact cannot be separated from the issue of priorities. Neither can we ignore what the United States is planning to do and where.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: We cannot ignore this fact when dealing with the Palestine question, if we really want to deal with it. But if we only want to issue statements to fool Arab citizens who can no longer be fooled, it will be useless, and we will not take part in any falsification of this kind. We will not be satisfied with words about supporting the Palestine question and shedding crocodile tears for our righteous martyrs falling in the occupied territories. Therefore, priorities must not contravene a practical policy that leads to the liberation of Palestine and leads to answering the Arab nation's demands.

He said: We are at a crucial stage and we do not want to lock the doors to our options indefinitely. If someone chose an option in the past, this option can be reconsidered if we are real Arabs and if we want to continue as one Arab nation working jointly to achieve its legitimate interests and rights, headed by Palestine and the Palestine question. But if the options and priorities whose true nature has recently been exposed, maintain the same approach we have seen for a long time, the path and the future will be different.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz adds: Brother Struggler Yasir 'Arafat pointed to the issue of war and its possibilities. Mr. President, you are one of those among us Arabs who should know very well that the war in our region has been going on continuously and cannot be stopped. The war has been going on since the Zionist gangs entered the land of Palestine and since the first Palestinian strugglers began to resist these gangs. The war then took on an official governmental form after the declaration of the Zionist entity's establishment. The war went on throughout the fifties.

He said that Jordan, as a confrontation state, and Syria, fought the war on a daily basis throughout the fifties. This situation went on until 1967, when it once again assumed an official and wide-ranging form. The war went on. At that time you headed the Palestinian strugglers and resistance and you fought on a daily basis. This situation persisted until 1973. The war then took on a more officially wide-ranging form, and after 1973, the war continued. Throughout this whole period you fought, and some Arabs fought with you. Some of them did not join you in the war, for well-known reasons and circumstances. But the war went on.

He said we have been suffering from the war for 40 years. Therefore, we have a deep belief in peace because peace is the natural choice of life and the natural choice for our nation. But what has peace given us and where is it? What is required of us is to capitulate. What is required of us is to live in what is called the American age. Here, in this region, the age is not American only, but an American and Israeli age. We are required to give in to American and Israeli boots. We are required to make the vast majority of our Arab nation starve so that the United States and its Western allies can take exclusive possession of Arab wealth, use it for their own purposes, and finance the continuing Israeli aggression against the Arab states. If this is peace, then we reject such peace because by all objective standards it is capitulation. This peace is a humiliation that no honorable person, free people, or dignified nation can accept. If we have to accept such a peace, then our option, Mr. President, as was the option of the first strugglers in the twenties and thirties, is war. It is no shame to opt for war. If war is imposed on this nation in order really to liberate it and to move into an age that is not the American-Israeli age, then it must fight. If it does not, then it is not the Arab nation as you know it.

He adds that, if some claim that they are Arab but do not behave as an Arab should, then history will record that they are Arab by language and nationality, but not true Arabs at heart. The real Arab is the one who chooses freedom and dignity, even if that means war. War is the modern term for an Arab expression known as jihad. When we say war, we Arabs mean jihad. We are not afraid of war, and if jihad is our destiny then we must choose jihad. At any rate, if we choose the way of peace, our priorities will not change. We will not allow our priorities to be changed. Our priority is Palestine and the question of Palestine. If we choose the way of war and jihad, the first priority will remain the Palestine question.

'Aziz said: I am not saying this to play down the importance of other problems facing us. Nor am I saying this out of emotion or the desire to reiterate certain slogans in order to avoid dealing with other issues of importance to us. But what has been the real suffering in this region over the past 50 years? What is the major reason for the instability and the economic and social problems in our region over the past 50 years? The major reason is the Arab-Israeli conflict. Yes, there are other reasons and other circumstances, but there has been a special case faced by the Arab nation and our region in particular, which is the implantation of the Zionist entity in our homeland and this entity's connection with colonialism and imperialism, because the objective of colonialism and its inheritor, U.S. imperialism, was and continues to be to control Arab wealth. Therefore, there will be no solution to any major problem, old or new, in the region except by concentrating on the major problem, which is the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Tariq 'Aziz stressed that any change in priorities was not only a mistake or the outcome of faulty judgment, but an attempt to perpetuate the real problem in the region and not to expose the alliance between the United States and Israel and the threat this alliance poses to the Arab nation. This is also aimed at perpetuating the Arab situation as it is now.

Mr. President, the current stage requires clear, candid, and unambiguous discussion. We either select a true Arab option that maintains the existence of this nation, maintains sound Arab relations, and maintains this institution under whose umbrella we are meeting today, and we may not meet here again in the future. [sentence as received].

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added: If we want to select the Arab option, the Arab option is clear and its priorities are clear and unambiguous. But if there is another option, we will have no option but jihad. We do not fear jihad. Although I agree with you, Mr. President, that war or jihad will gravely harm what we possess, I claim with you that a great deal of what we possess now is not ours as long as we are threatened by the U.S.-Israeli age. If jihad will lead to material losses on our part, we will triumph morally. We will relieve our souls of the effects of this U.S.-Israeli age and will relieve our souls of the dirt that has clung to them for many years. If souls and wills are liberated, all the material achievements in the Arab homeland are made by man and can be rebuilt in a better manner so that they become ours. We will not be guardians of the interests of the United States and Israel.

Earlier, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat said the Arab nation is facing a crisis heralding a war that would result in nothing but rubble and total destruction unless the situation is resolved in the Arab Gulf region through an Arab solution free of foreign intervention.

In a speech at the closed session of the Arab League Council emergency session here tonight, 'Arafat urged the Arab League to bring about an Arab solution to the crisis in a manner serving Arab dignity and warding off the specter of war sought by the imperialists in the region.

The Palestinian president strongly criticized the UN Security Council resolution on the Zionist massacre at al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem. He said it was useless to rely on the UN Security Council to resolve our pan-Arab issues.

Yasir 'Arafat warned against the moves and acts of the Zionist occupation authorities aimed at Judaizing the holy city, indicating that what happened in Jerusalem was not only a massacre, but an expression of the insistence by the Zionist entity to change the character of holy Jerusalem.

## Hints at Boycott of League

*NC1810174190 Cairo MENA in English 1714 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Tunis, Oct. 18 (MENA)—Arab League sources disclosed last night that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz hinted in his speech last night before the Arab League Council's closed session that that meeting might be the last he would attend.

Delegations participating in the said session construed this hint as meaning that Iraq intends to boycott the Arab League following its permanent transfer to Cairo, effective October 31.

## Syrian Delegate on Iraqi Invasion

*JN1810175190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Tunis, 18 Oct (SANA)—The Arab League Council resumed the meetings of its emergency session here this morning to discuss the Israeli attacks on the Palestinian Arab people, especially the recent massacre committed by the occupation forces at the al-Haram al-Sharif [al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock compound] in Jerusalem against Palestinian worshippers.

In its morning session, the Council began to discuss a draft resolution condemning Israel for committing that massacre.

The Council held its first session last night. In an interjection, Ahmad 'Isa, Syria's permanent delegate to the Arab League, paid tribute to the heroism and steadfastness of our kinsfolk in the occupied Arab territories in spite of the Gulf crisis and Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, which has not provided a suitable climate for the continuation of the intifadah and for extending help and assistance to it.

## Rejection of Linkage Criticized

*JN1810160190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Tunis, 18 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi diplomat has criticized the parties rejecting the principle of linkage between the Palestine question and the Gulf developments, saying that this serves the designs of Zionism and imperialism.

In an statement during the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council here today, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, said that whoever fights against Iraq under the American flag serves Zionism and imperialism. Replying to justifications made by the representatives of the Arab regimes that connived with the American invasion of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arabian Peninsula, he said that the Croesus of Kuwait has conspired against Iraq and pan-Arab security through plotting and coordinating with the United States.

In another development, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi stressed that America was compelled to adopt its stand at the UN Security Council toward the Zionist massacre at the al-Haram al-Sharif [al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock compound] in Jerusalem under clear pressure and after it had delayed and weakened the resolution denouncing the Zionist entity.

Commenting on the request made by Husni's [Mubarak's] representative to delete the fourth paragraph from the Palestinian draft resolution, which condemns the United States, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi added that this will not absolve America of its crimes and hostile stands against the Palestinian people's rights and the Arab nation. He emphasized that this paragraph is the core of the resolution, without which the need for another resolution ceases to exist. He called for responding to the Arab masses's will from the Gulf to the Ocean.

He said that relying on America's support will not protect anyone, that we are not deluded into depending on the United States for the defense of Arab rights, and that the battle in the Gulf will be the judge that will show the results in the future.

The Iraqi delegation had earlier withdrawn from the meeting in protest of the conniving Arab regime's attempts to delete the paragraphs condemning the American stand, which is hostile to all Arab issues. The delegations of Yemen, Sudan, Jordan, and the state of Palestine also withdrew.

### Al-Qasim Backs Condemning U.S.

*JN1810191890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim has told the Arab League in Tunis that the point of the continuing foreign ministers' meeting is to look into persistent Israeli aggression against Palestinian territory. The UN Security Council resolution, added al-Qasim, did not go far enough to deter Israeli aggression thanks to U.S. indulgence of Israeli behavior in the occupied land. He said the emergency Arab League Council meeting was convened at the request of the PLO—the party most immediately concerned with the Palestinian people and the occupied Palestinian land and sanctities. Al-Qasim asked how can we reconcile our recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians with the opposition by some to its demand [that the United States be condemned by the Arab League].

### Some Delegations Withdraw

*JN1810125190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Tunis, 18 Oct (INA)—The state of Palestine has withdrawn a draft resolution it presented to the extraordinary Arab League Council session to protest the positions of the Arab regimes colluding with the Zionist entity and the United States in the conspiracy against the Palestine question and the Arab nation.

During the morning council meeting held here today, the state of Palestine decided to withdraw from the session and to hold the Arab regimes conniving with the United States and supporting the resolutions adopted at the [Cairo] summit of America's Arabs responsible for fragmenting common Arab action and plotting against the Arabs' crucial cause, Palestine.

The PLO's Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi was sharply critical of the attempts by the Arabs of America to delete from the draft resolution a text expressing denunciation and condemnation of the procrastination and maneuvering pursued by the U.S. Administration against crucial Arab issues.

The INA reporter in Tunis has learned that the representatives of America's Arabs have asked to delete the paragraphs that ask the U.S. Administration to stop its double standard and selective approach in dealing with international legitimacy and to be in harmony with the will of the international community in applying its conventions and laws using the same standards and seriousness at all times and in all places.

The delegates of Iraq, Sudan, Yemen, and Jordan also withdrew from the meeting to protest the attempts by the colluding Arab regimes to foil the Palestinain draft resolution that condemns the United States.

The INA reporter said that the Arab League's General Secretariat was forced to adjourn the morning meeting and has taken recourse to sideline consultations to ensure the continuation of the extraordinary session after the draft resolution for whose sake the session is being held was withdrawn.

### Jordanian Radio Reports 'Dispute'

*JN1810131390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen: It was reported from Tunisia a short while ago that the Arab League has failed in its session of this morning to agree on the draft resolution submitted by the state of Palestine in reply to the Israeli aggression against the al-Aqsa Mosque and the holy Dome of the Rock on 8 October and the bloody massacre of the sons of the Palestinian people that ensued.

The reason for the dispute inside the Arab League Council, which resumed its emergency meeting in Tunisia this morning, was the insistence of 11 Arab countries on rejecting a clause contained in the draft resolution submitted by the formulation committee that includes Palestine and the General Secretariat of the Arab League. The clause expresses the League's dismay at and condemnation of positions that lead to procrastination and delay, positions that were adopted by the U.S. Government during the Security Council discussions, saying these positions confirm the bias of the exposed U.S. stand that encourages the Israeli policy of terrorism and repression, and constitute a cover for Israeli aggression. The clause also calls on the U.S. Government to stop these practices and end the double standard approach for its retaliatory position in its dealings with international legitimacy, and notes the need for it to be in harmony with the will of the international community in applying its charters and laws with the same standards and seriousness everywhere, and at all times.

During the discussion of this clause, the head of the Egyptian delegation, who is Egypt's permanent member of the League, met [as heard] on this text and demanded its cancellation from the draft resolution. A vote was then held; 11 Arab countries approved the Egyptian request: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Djibouti, Somalia, and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. The head of the Moroccan delegation was not given the chance to express the view of his country's delegation because the delegations of Palestine, Iraq, Sudan, and Yemen withdrew from the session.

Following these developments, Palestine withdrew the draft resolution that it had submitted earlier. This caused the session to be adjourned until further consultations are held among the Arab delegations.

### Maghreb Countries Mediate

*LD1810180790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Excerpts] In Tunis, the delegations of the state of Palestine, Iraq, the Sudan, and Yemen withdrew from the second session of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Ministerial Council soon after the session began. This followed a dispute over the draft resolution presented by the Palestinian delegation, one paragraph of which condemns the U.S. stand during the recent meeting of the UN Security Council and calls on the U.S. Administration to end the double standards in its selective attitudes toward international legitimacy. S'ad Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry and member of the Iraqi delegation, said in a press statement that 11 member countries of the Council had opposed the paragraph and demanded that it be dropped. This made the Palestinian delegation withdraw the draft resolution and caused the withdrawal of the four delegations.

The council suspended its session to allow consultations among the delegations. It has been learned from sources close to the Arab League that the Maghreb countries are mediating in order to bring the points of view of the delegations participating in the extraordinary session closer together. A committee was set up for this purpose and it has started its reconciliation efforts. [passage omitted]

The state of Palestine submitted a four-point draft resolution calling on the Security Council to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the crimes of the occupation authorities against the Palestinian people and their contempt for international principles and laws, to impose sanctions on Israel, to provide international protection for the Palestinian people, and to hold an international conference on peace in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

### MENA on 'Denunciation' of U.S.

*NC1810205890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1935 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Tunis, 18 Oct (MENA)—The Arab League Council has condemned Israel's aggression at the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock as well as the bloody massacre committed against the Palestinian people. The Council held the Israeli occupation authorities fully responsible for these criminal acts.

In its resolutions which were approved this evening, the Arab League Council stressed the Arab states' adherence to Arab and Palestinian rights in Jerusalem, capital of the independent Palestinian state. It reiterated the Arab states' determination to defend these rights and to protect the holy places against the Israeli challenge.

The Council called on the international community to shoulder its responsibility fully in deterring the escalating Israeli aggression.

The Council expressed its denunciation ['araba 'an istinkarih] of the U.S. positions biased in favor of Israel. It called on the United States to develop its positions toward Palestinian and Arab rights, to halt its support of Israel, to adhere to legitimacy in order to stop Israel's repressive policy and terrorism, to implement Security Council Resolution 672, and to stress the importance of applying all UN principles and resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The above paragraph was formulated in the past few hours. It was approved by the heads of delegations, including the four delegations that walked out of the previous session. It is noted that this paragraph does not contain the expression of condemnation [idanat] of the United States.

The Council decided to ask the Arab Ministerial Committee in Support of the Intifadah to follow up on the situation in the occupied territories and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 672; to convene the next meeting of the Security Council on the date fixed for it in that resolution; to continue to act on the political, diplomatic, and information levels to ensure international protection for the Palestinian people; to strive to temporarily place the occupied territories under UN supervision until peace is achieved by Israel's withdrawal; to form a plenary Islamic body composed of senior Muslim scholars to supervise the holy places in Jerusalem; and to work to convene the international conference on peace in the Middle East within the framework of the Security Council and on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, and of the international legality's resolutions on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict so as to achieve Israel's withdrawal from all Palestinian and Arab occupied territories, to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and national sovereignty under UN supervision and with the participation on an equal footing of all concerned parties, including the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Arab League Council decided to follow up on implementing the resolutions on extending financial support to the Palestinian intifadah which were approved by previous Arab summits.

The Council called on member states to participate effectively in providing various forms of the necessary aid for the projects and resolutions of the Jerusalem Committee.

The Council also called for the implementation of the Arab resolutions and programs to confront the intensive Jewish immigration and colonization plans in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

MENA has learned that Libya had expressed reservations over the use of the word "Israel" wherever it appeared in the resolution. It also expressed reservations about the paragraph dealing with the international conference on the basis that it implies direct or indirect recognition of the Zionist entity.

### Disputed Resolution Adopted

*LD1810203290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] The Arab League extraordinary ministerial council ended this evening with the unanimous adoption of the article that was the center of differences among delegations. This article denounces the U.S. stand vis-a-vis the United Nations Security Council resolution regarding the condemnation of Israel following the Temple Mount massacre.

As'ad al-As'ad, Arab League acting secretary-general, stated that this unanimity confirms once again that the Palestinian cause is the cause of the whole Arab nation.

### Council Issues Statement

*JN1810214590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Tunis, 18 Oct (INA)—The Arab League Council has condemned the pro-Zionist policies of the American Administration.

Concluding an emergency session, the League Council called on the U.S. Administration to develop its stands on national Palestinian and Arab rights and to cease its support of the Zionist entity. In a concluding statement released here tonight, the council further urged the United States to impress on the Zionist entity the need to comply with international law, halt its repression and terror, respect UN Security Council Resolution 672, and honor all UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian question and the Arab-Zionist conflict.

The Arab League Council urged the international community to assume its full responsibility toward deterring the mounting Zionist aggression against our Palestinian people in the occupied Arab land and to take whatever feasible measures are needed to curb this recurring aggression.

The council condemned the Zionist entity's latest aggression against the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, and the bloody massacre committed against Palestinians, and held the occupation authorities fully responsible for these criminal acts.

The council stressed the Arab countries' firm adherence to Arab and Palestinian right to Jerusalem as the capital of the independent Palestinian state, and emphasized their determination to defend this right and protect the sacred shrines against Zionist defiance.

The statement added that Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian land and emphasized that the Zionist entity's law making Jerusalem the undivided capital [of the state of Israel] is null and void, and that all legislative and administrative measures to change or seeking to change the character of Arab Jerusalem and its legal status are invalid and must be terminated forthwith.

The Arab League Council affirmed the need to guarantee international protection for the Palestinian people through the dispatch of international observers or international troops to be entrusted with this task until Zionist withdrawal and the establishment of full peace. Similarly, the Council said that efforts should be made to place the occupied Arab territories under interim international supervision that must continue until the establishment of a Palestinian state and the exercise by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination.

The Arab League Council called for imposing on the Zionist entity sanctions provided in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter because of its refusal to accept the resolutions of the UN Security Council and international law.

The Council underscored the importance of efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference within the framework of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO, which should participate in such a gathering on an equal footing with the other parties by virtue of the fact that it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Arab League Council asked the Arab ministerial committee charged with supporting the intifadah to follow up the highly serious developments of the situation in the occupied Arab territories as well as the implementation of UNSC Resolution 672. The council also urged the committee to follow up the situation regarding the convocation of the next UNSC meeting on its fixed date. The committee was also charged with continuing its political, diplomatic, and media moves and contacts, especially with the permanent members of the UNSC and other international parties.

The council decided to follow up the implementation of the resolutions approved by Arab summits on financial aid for the Palestinian intifadah and the other various forms of support recommended by the Arab League Council with the aim of enhancing the steadfastness of the intifadah and escalating it.

The council stressed the need to continue efforts to implement Arab resolutions and programs to oppose the intensive Jewish immigration and the settlement projects in the occupied Arab territories.

The Arab League Council expressed the Arab nation's pride in and appreciation for the militant Palestinian people's sacrifices and great steadfastness in the face of the Zionist aggression and their defense of the nation's holy places. The Council also humbly and respectfully prayed for mercy for the souls of the righteous martyrs.

The Arab League Council urged the member states to contribute toward the various forms of support needed by the projects and resolutions adopted by the Jerusalem Committee, including the rehabilitation of old Jerusalem buildings, the restoration of the holy Dome of the Rock, and supporting the steadfastness of the city's population, especially regarding the encouragement of housing projects and Arab construction projects.

The council stressed the need for the UN Security Council to be guided by one standard based on international legitimacy in resolving disputes when dealing with international issues .

The Arab League Council held its emergency session at the request of the state of Palestine yesterday. A number of Arab foreign ministers took part in the meeting.

## Palestinian Affairs

### 'Arafat Condemns U.S. 'Maneuvers' at UN

*JN1810204790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1935 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stated that the state of Palestine will inevitably be established under the PLO with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

In a speech delivered at a massive Tunisian rally last night in a show of solidarity with our heroic Palestinian people, brother Abu-'Ammar said that what happened 10 days ago in holy Jerusalem was not just a Zionist massacre but rather a conspiracy planned by the U.S. Administration to Judaize the Islamic and Christian holy sites.

Brother president leader Abu-'Ammar saluted the masses of our noble people inside the occupied homeland and added: The residents of Jerusalem and the guardians of the al-Aqsa Mosque were lying in wait for this conspiracy. That is why they formed a human chain with their bodies; not to defend money or oil, but to defend Jerusalem's al-Haram al-Sharif [al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock compound] and to prevent the Zionist extremists, who are backed by the Zionist army and police, from laying the foundation stone for the so-called Solomon's temple. Thus, they wrote with their blood that this land is Arab, and so it will remain.

Brother president leader Abu-'Ammar condemned the U.S. maneuvers during the UN Security Council [UNSC] deliberations to obstruct the draft resolution submitted by the Nonaligned Movement member states calling for the dispatch of a fact-finding mission by the UNSC.

### Commentary Urges Action Toward 'Just Solution'

*JN1110091890 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1940 GMT 10 Oct 90*

[Commentary by radio's political commentator: "The Issue of All Issues"]

[Text] Once again Palestinian blood affirms (?the need) for a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East [passage indistinct].

Needless to say, the horrible massacre carried out the day before yesterday by the Zionist occupation forces and the murderous gangs of settlers against the masses of our Palestinian people in holy Jerusalem has reaffirmed the need for action on every Arab and international level to resolve the basic Middle East issue so that peace, security, and stability can be established in this region. This horrendous sanguinary massacre has cast its shadow on all the hot issues in the region and the world. It has strongly affirmed the importance of linking all these issues together to reach a just and comprehensive solution to them on the basis of international legitimacy and without any separation of these issues. This appalling massacre will undoubtedly push the no-war-no-peace state, which has been entrenched by the continued U.S-backed Zionist aggression, to the point where it is impossible for it to continue. Therefore, there must be a solution, and it must be a just solution. The alternative is a comprehensive explosion that will leave nothing behind, not in the camp of the good, honorable, and faithful; but in the camp of the aggressive evildoers and invaders and their humiliated, lowly satellites.

Therefore, once again all those concerned about the Middle East should embark on a serious and effective move toward a solution and work to provide the means of a solution, its framework, and a mechanism capable of swiftly yielding the sought after results. It is an opportunity currently available for the international community to reconsider its stands, especially regarding its submission to the aggressive U.S. policy against Iraq and the Arab nation. The European states in particular should stop their political hypocrisy for the sake of the United States and should view their vital interests in the Middle East from their own point of view. These interests can only be achieved through relations of understanding and friendship with the Arab nation and its states, which are seeking progress, advancement, and prosperity.

We must reaffirm that the Palestinian blood which was heavily spilt in the courtyard of the holy al-Aqsa and its sacred thresholds will remain the unchanging picture which affirms the futility of U.S. attempts to separate the region's issues in order to obliterate and undermine the avenues toward a just solution and impose U.S. hegemony on the Middle East, and subsequently control the entire world.

The free Arabs in Iraq and Palestine, who now seek to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to all the region's problems, present to the world a historic opportunity for stability, security, and peace, not in the Middle East alone, but in the entire world. The UN Security Council in particular should now and immediately stop using double standards for human rights and should relinquish procrastination, duality, and participation in the U.S. schemes. The UN Security Council should also move to deal seriously and equally with the Middle East issues, headed by the Palestine question.

Finally, we say Palestinian blood is not cheap, and our people will know how to deal double retaliation. Before that we tell all parties—enemies and friends—to understand and listen well to Saddam Husayn's shout: God is great; God is great; these are the stones baked with clay.

### Dissident Fatah-Uprising Urges Militant Unity

*JN1110105590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Oct 90 p 6*

[Statement issued by Fatah dissident group, Fatah-the Uprising, appearing in a box on AL-RA'Y advertisements page]

[Text] The bloody massacre perpetrated by the Zionist enemy at the al-Aqsa Mosque has confirmed that this enemy only understands the language of force, which in the past few years became absent from Palestinian action and even from Palestinian political discourse. The absence of the language of force, which was in line with the course of settlement and the retreat from the liberation program, not only dealt a blow to the unity of the Palestinian arena and the revolution's prestige, but also encouraged the enemy and the Arab forces colluding with it, to go too far in torturing the Palestinian people. This massacre clearly exposes the enemy's plots aimed at annihilating those people under occupation and expelling them from their homeland.

By running after the illusions of settlement, the Palestinian people have paid a higher price in blood, pain, and suffering, than they had endured on the path of liberation. Today, experience confirms the futility of the course that prevailed in the PLO's action in the past few years. It also confirms the futility of the methods used in dealing with the United States and its settlement base in Palestine, the Zionist camp.

In light of the ongoing developments in the region and the world, and after the ugly massacre committed by the enemy in the Jerusalem holy mosque and the objectives it aimed to achieve through it, we call on the PLO to immediately abandon the policy of wagering on settlement with the Zionist enemy, and consequently, to abandon its course of dealing with the parties of the camp of the enemies of our people and nation, at the head of which is the United States of America.

Abandoning the illusion of settlement with the Zionist enemy, immediate severing of ties with the United States, adjusting the course of Palestinian national action, and restoring credibility to the armed struggle will pave the way for Palestinian national unity and restore to the Palestinian arena its unity and prestige and form a practical response to the enemy's crimes that aim to obliterate the Palestinian people and efface their identity.

The best thing the nationalist Palestinians in exile can give to their people and intifadah inside [the occupied territories] is entrenched national unity based on a program of liberation that will mass all activities at this phase to enable the intifadah to achieve its objectives in defeating occupation without bargaining with the national cause. For the past three years our people have proved their ability to confront the enemy plots despite all the oppression, terrorism, and tyranny. They will certainly be able to continue the struggle if they have the practical backing and if the necessary means are placed at their disposal.

While extending greetings and praise to our people's militant masses in the occupied homeland, we are quite certain that the blood of martyrs will not go in vain, that the vanguards of our people and nation will know how to give the appropriate punishment to this crime, and that the barbaric acts which the enemy carries out against our people will only make them more determined to confront, stand fast, and continue the struggle until victory and liberation.

[Signed] Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah.

[Dated] 9 October 1990, Damascus.

### Hamas Calls Islamic Groups To Liberate Palestine

*LD1610141490 Tehran IRNA in English 1249 GMT 16 Oct 90*

[Excerpts] London, Oct, 16, IRNA—Palestine's 'Islamic Resistance Movement' (Hamas), has called for Islamic battalions to liberate "the land of Isra and Mi'raj." [terms denoting the Prophet's ascent to heaven from Jerusalem]

The call came as Britain's foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, prepared to meet the Zionist leader on Tuesday, one day after being snubbed three times by Zionist officials upon his arrival in occupied Palestine. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), in the meantime, has attacked all the "colonialist powers," Calling on "Arab and Muslim states" to boycott those powers and to build up their own strength to face Zionist treachery. In their latest statement, received by IRNA on Tuesday, they added that they send their "thanks to the heads of Christian Churches who came to al-Aqsa Mosque to offer their condolences" over the massacre.

And they called upon "muslims everywhere" to organise demonstrations to "express our rejection of American domination and show anger against America, the founder and supporter of the Israeli entity." They also suggested that a "martyrs week" be held all over the world "where martyrs in general and al-Aqsa martyrs in particular will be honoured." In addition, they declared "the 10th of October of every year" to be "the day of Aqsa, a day of strikes, prayers, demonstrations and talks on Palestine."

They further called for "days of bloody confrontations by all means available" and ordered that "every Israeli soldier or settler be considered a target." The statement also mentioned 20th, 21st and 22nd October 1990 as "days of setting fire to enemy property, especially the cotton crop," and the 29th October as "a general strike on the anniversary of the Kafr Qasim massacre committed by the Jews in 1956." [passage omitted]

## Former Speaker on 'Negative Effects' of Crisis

*JN1110113090 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 7 Oct 90 p 9*

[Report on an undated interview with "Palestine National Council Speaker" Khalid al-Fahum by AL-THAWRAH reporter 'Abd-al-Latif Miqdad in Damascus on the 17th anniversary of the October war]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Asked about the current Arab situation and the effect of the Gulf crisis on the overall Arab struggle issues and the Palestine question in particular, Khalid al-Fahum said: Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has affected the Arab situation, the Arab struggle issue, and the Palestine question in a very negative way. The negative effects of this invasion are many. The following are some of them:

1. The invasion has largely obliterated the Palestine question. This question was placed at the top of world issues by the October war, the heroism of our kinfolk in the occupied territory, and their revolutionary intifadah which has isolated, confused, and weakened Israel.

The Iraqi invasion has overshadowed the news of the Jewish immigration into Palestine. As we see, the world has remained silent on the Jewish immigration and Israel has been given an opportunity to bring in large numbers of Jews without clamor, even without protest.

We should also not forget that the huge Palestinian community in Kuwait was of great importance regarding support of the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territory. Now, as a result of the Iraqi invasion, the people in the occupied territory have been deprived of this support.

2. The conflict in the Arab homeland throughout the past 70 years was an Arab-Zionist one. And Arab efforts were geared—on various levels—toward this conflict. Now, as a result of the invasion, we fear that it might turn into an intra-Arab conflict pushing the Arab-Zionist conflict backwards in large steps. This is a threat to the Palestine question and an auxiliary factor in liquidating the issue and strengthening Israel and Zionism.

3. The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has struck at Arab solidarity, particularly since Syrian and Arab good offices have recently been exerted to reinforce this solidarity. Arab solidarity has recently been established on many pillars, particularly on the inadmissibility of any Arab country's aggression against another country, and on resolving all differences through dialogue. The invasion of Kuwait has torpedoed this basis and weakened solidarity.

4. One of the results of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is the arrival of large numbers of American and foreign forces in the Arab region to defend it and protect the flow of the basic source of energy, oil.

Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait would eliminate the pretext for the presence of these Atlantic forces on Arab land and unify the efforts of all Arabs to expel them after the removal of the reason for their arrival.

5. And last but not least, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the arrival of the American forces place the entire Arab nation on the brink of a volcano that might explode. And if this volcano explodes—and this is possible—it will blow the entire Arab region away, causing destruction and inflicting great dangers on the Arab homeland and the Palestine question, not only on Iraq.

We call on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and to make reason overpower emotions. We affirm that we are unionists; we work for the sake of Arab unity through logic, pretext, and convincing. Regardless of the ideals entailed in the call for Arab unity it cannot be applied through violence or imposed by force.

Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait undoubtedly constitutes the right beginning to establishing a better Arab solidarity.

## Further on 'Arafat Meeting With Al-Faysal

*JN1710175990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received at his place of residence in Rabat yesterday morning His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During the meeting they discussed the situation in the region, the results of the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, and the importance of following them up. Discussions also dealt with the grave situation in the Gulf region and the need for efforts to reach a political solution within the Arab framework and under an international umbrella. Brother Abu-'Ammar asked his highness the prince to convey brotherly greetings and a special message to His Majesty King Fahd. The meeting was attended by Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], PLO Executive Committee member, and Brothers Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee members.

## Algeria

### Foreign Ministry on Gulf Policy Authority

*LD1810125590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, prominent people in the national political and public arenas have adopted positions and carried out various initiatives, including traveling to the Gulf region and contacting the leaders of some of the countries concerned with the crisis. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry announced today in a statement distributed in Algiers that people who adopt positions vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis in an individual capacity or in their capacity as representatives of parties or associations do not under any circumstances speak on behalf of the Algerian state. The Foreign Ministry states that Algerian policy cannot be declared nor its intiatives taken except through the Foreign Ministry or by a person authorized in that capacity by the head of state.

### Foreign Minister Outlines Middle East Priorities

*PM0910112190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Oct 90 p 2*

[Interview with Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Matar] Let us begin with the Gulf crisis. In view of the contacts you have made, what kind of atmosphere are we experiencing and where is the situation heading?

[Ghazali] Through our contacts with Arab and foreign parties we have tried to contribute to clarifying views with respect to the current crisis. There is a situation in the Arab world labeled division. What kind of division is it? In fact it is not as reported. The division is not vertical but horizontal. In other words, there are governments, and there is public opinion. And we see the situation as follows: All the governments have rejected the invasion and annexation of Kuwait. And it seems to me that there is no division among governments in that regard. There may be disagreement on how to resolve the problem. There are different views. But regarding the principle, we do not believe that even a single government accepts the invasion or the disregard of international legitimacy.

As for public opinion, it does not understand the double standards in the international position whereby nothing is done to resolve the Palestinian issue and yet emphasis is placed on the Kuwait issue. And we as leaders of the Arab world must look as that question realistically. I am saying this not to justify the occupation of Kuwait, but to clarify a fact which can lead us to try to find a solution.

The Arab world is at a crossroads. We must succeed in finding a solution that safeguards Arab capability in general and returns us to international legitimacy through peaceful means and negotiation, and we must open the door for negotiation to resolve that dispute; otherwise, if we fail in that direction, the situation could worsen and lead—God forbid—to the destruction of another Arab country, that is, Iraq. So there is a feeling of frustration and disappointment which will inevitably lead to a fundamental and negative change in the Arab world as a whole, thus affecting Arab relations with others.

[Matar] What are the foundations for a solution? The Security Council resolutions?

[Ghazali] There are the Security Council resolutions, and they are the basis of the economic blockade.

[Matar] But before the blockade there is a resolution demanding Iraq's withdrawal, the restoration of the legitimate government, and repudiation of the annexation.

[Ghazali] I believe that all the Arab states are demanding the withdrawal and the restoration of sovereignty. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Within that context you as Maghreb states, including Algeria, tried to secure a solution. What could be considered an acceptable compromise, especially under the Maghreb initiatives?

[Ghazali] We in Algeria did not talk about mediation, nor did we embark on mediation efforts or present a plan. What we did at the Maghreb level was to meet at foreign minister level and agree on a working paper, which was referred to the Arab leaders who then approved it. That paper contained principles and elements for a solution, not a complete plan on which any Maghreb solution, if there is to be one, must be based. What we did was to agree unanimously at the Maghreb level on these basic elements and principles. [passage omitted]

[Matar] President Bush has moved a step forward regarding the Palestinian issue. But he has emphasized that resolving the Gulf crisis should be given priority. Do you agree with him on that?

[Ghazali] The Gulf crisis should not be considered more or less important than the Palestinian issue. And that did not prevent Bush from admitting that once this crisis is resolved the door will be opened for a solution to the other issues, especially the Palestinian issue.

[Matar] And why, do you believe, did Bush change his position?

[Ghazali] Probably because of his analyses of the situation or to emphasize a new will to find a peaceful solution. President Bush's view is that we can find some hope by opening the doors and returning to a peaceful solution. The peace logic outweighs the military logic.

[Matar] Do you believe that President Mitterrand actually presented an initiative?

[Ghazali] President Mitterrand's address also opened the door to a peaceful solution and admitted that the examination of this crisis alone is not sufficient as a new attempt to secure a solution. This is why he spoke about phases, the first of which would be Iraq's announcement of its recognition or acceptance of the withdrawal principle, followed by dialogue, then withdrawal, then the resolution of the Palestinian issue, etc. [passage omitted]

## Egypt

### Mubarak Comments on King Husayn, Terrorism

*NC1810141590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Egypt is a tolerant country, is not vindictive toward anyone, and does not dwell on the Baghdad summit, because this is an old and forgotten matter.

This came in statements President Mubarak made today at Cairo International Airport when he received Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana during the latter's stopover at the airport.

Regarding King Husayn's accusations against Egypt, President Mubarak said: I read King Husayn's interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES. I do not want to comment on it as we in Egypt do not seek revenge against anyone. He added: I wish, however, King Husayn had not used such words because they are "untrue." He added that there is no need to launch a war of words. He said: We can also speak out and give facts, but I do not want to comment on his interview. I would like to stress that neither I nor Egypt is vindictive.

Regarding cooperation between Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President Mubarak said: Saudi Arabia is presently supporting us economically and is always ready to assist. We do not want to disclose figures, but they are supporting us economically and are always ready to assist. He added: There are other countries such as the United Arab Emirates that are helping as much as they can, but Saudi Arabia is the biggest country supporting us economically and in various fields, such as investments. There is no need to talk about this issue, but all of us must feel it as Egyptians.

On the issue of foreign debts, President Mubarak said: Egypt's debts to the Arab countries are no problem at all because we have settled this issue with them. Most of them have canceled these debts. But we prefer not to talk about these debts because this is not a good time. These countries have not even asked us to settle these debts, not even before they wrote them off. We have not paid any interest or anything on them. He added that almost all the debts have been written off.

Replying to a question on Egypt's foreign debts, President Mubarak said we are still proceeding along the road in this connection and do not want to rush things. He added: U.S. President George Bush and his administration are currently dealing with the issue, and I hope they will get it settled as soon as possible, God willing.

In response to another question, President Mubarak said: I will visit Saudi Arabia at the proper time.

On the implications of desertions by Iraqi military personnel and the effect this will have on the prospects for peace, Mubarak said: All I can say is that I am truly sorry for Iraq and I hope it will not be subjected to attacks. He added: We, however, support international legitimacy. Therefore, I have repeatedly appealed to President Saddam Husayn to show responsiveness to the peace call so that a disaster can be averted, and I will continue to do so; Iraq, however, does not respond. Day after day it issues statements saying that Kuwait belongs to it.

The president continued: We are living in the last decade of the 20th century. In addition, seizing land by force is a serious step which is bound to deal blows to all our causes.

President Mubarak asserted in this regard that Palestine can never be liberated by the occupation of Kuwait. He pointed out that the Kuwait issue is an inter-Arab one, while the Palestinian issue is an Arab-Israeli one. He said: We should not fool ourselves. The entire world understands the situation very well. He added, however, I hope this situation will end without having to resort to war.

On confronting terrorist operations directed against Egypt, President Mubarak said: We do not fear terrorist operations. Even if they succeed in killing one person, they will never succeed in killing 55 million.

The president emphasized that Egypt will continue to be Egypt. He said Egypt will never change or depart from its principles under any circumstances.

Addressing those involved in terrorist operations, President Mubarak said: There is no need to get involved in problems. Terrorism is the approach of the weak and cowardly, while political dialogue is the approach of the strong.

### Ghali Warns Against Overthrowing Saddam Husayn

*AU1910104690 Vienna KURIER in German 19 Oct 90 p 3*

[Interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by S. Hamann in Cairo; date not given: "Solution to Kuwait Crisis as a Precedent for Palestine"]

[Text] [Hamann] What price has Egypt had to pay for its commitment in the Gulf?

[Ghali] We do not act in order to be rewarded. We defend our principles and international law. We cannot accept another annexation. Regarding the terrorist threats, we have always had them. Such threats, however, must not jeopardize our internal stability. There is consensus among our people on our pro-Western course. The fundamentalists do not represent real power.

[Hamann] Does Egypt fear an increased U.S. presence in the Gulf?

[Ghali] No. What should the Americans do if they stay there? You cannot drink oil. What we fear rather is the bad image that the Arab world has in the West.

[Hamann] Why is Egypt opposed to the Kuwait issue's being linked to the Palestinian problem?

[Ghali] We must not mix that politically because the UN Resolution calls for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait, otherwise the diplomatic status of an aggressor would be strengthened. However, there is a legal connection. A territory must not be annexed by force. If we solve the Kuwait problem, we can use this as a precedent for Palestine.

[Hamann] How are your relations with the PLO, which has demonstrated considerable support for Saddam?

[Ghali] Currently our relationship is strained. As long as the PLO represents the Palestinian people, however, we must recognize it. Saddam's aggression has encouraged those who want to solve problems by force, while it has weakened those who propose a dialogue.

[Hamann] What else must be done, in addition to Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, to stabilize the region?

[Ghali] We must not overthrow Saddam. That is an internal Iraqi affair. However, once the acute crisis is solved, there will have to be a sort of Arab security system. There must be no foreign troops in the region.

[Hamann] Has Saddam destroyed the pan-Arab idea?

[Ghali] Our goal is one Arab state—comparable to the EC. We cannot in the long run continue to be subdivided into micronational units. What we need to have above all, however, is democracy. Without democracy, there can be no economic development.

## Jordan Deportation of Workers Said 'Suspect'

*JN1810140690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Oct 90 pp 1, 3*

[Article by editor in chief Mahfuz al-Ansari: "Jordan Deports Egyptians—The Innocent Decision and Its Timing"]

[Text] The Jordanian Government yesterday issued a sudden decision to deport 70,000 Egyptian workers. And the declared reason is that those workers do not have work permits. The decision was adopted by a sovereign state; it is covered with a legal guise that charges Egyptian workers with the crime of violating Jordanian laws. In accordance with this charge or crime, the Jordanian decision imposes on the guilty a fee of $300, and his deportation.

Nobody can or has the right to object to acts of a sovereign state and to violations of law. However, certain factors draw attention to this sudden decision, including the following:

1. The perfect timing, which was accurately chosen.

2. The decision is based on the fact that the workers do not have work permits. Everyone knows that the Jordanian Government itself is for many reasons uninterested in issuing these permits, not the least of which are: to prevent the organization of those workers' rights, to maintain the right to expel them at any moment, to exploit their efforts at the lowest prices, and numerous other reasons. And the phenomenon is not new; nor is it one of the effects of the establishment of the quadrilateral council [the Arab Cooperation Council]; it is a very old phenomenon. By this phenomenon, I mean the migration of Egyptian workers to Jordan.

3. The Jordanian decision to deport the Egyptians has ignored a reason that could have been more convincing, more acceptable, and more innocent; namely, the grinding economic crisis and the difficult living and social conditions.

4. Shall we add to this something else that might appear to be far from the subject? This decision came after the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub and his companions. It is as though this strange and sudden decision predicts events, investigations, and their outcome. It is as though it aims at fabricating a crisis or problem with Egypt and the Egyptians for a reason known by the decisionmakers and those who have chosen the timing.

In any case, as we have said, Jordan has the right to adopt its decisions because it is a sovereign state; it also has the right to deal with administrative and legal violations, even against Egyptians. But it is wrong to exploit the situation, transform the facts, and ignore violations, or create them and then bypass them for use at the appropriate time.

I hope that the new mass expulsion of Egyptians from Jordan—after what happened to them in Iraq and Kuwait—is not part and parcel of the same scheme. I hope this is not a new opportunity to dispatch groups of terrorists and agents amid this sudden deportation and expulsion, particularly since the Jordanian decision has put the people and workers between hammer and anvil: The hammer of the $300 fee; and the anvil of the crime—that is, working without a permit.

I think I can say that such sudden decisions and measures—and I regret to say that they are suspect decisions—will neither annoy nor frighten Egypt. They will never be a pressing factor on Egypt, its independent authority, or its free will. Such resolutions and others will not be an object to bargain over a principle or a right.

Egypt waged a fierce war and was exposed to a tripartite aggression in 1956 in which France strongly participated because of Egypt's pan-Arab and principled stand on the side of the Algerian revolution.

Egypt waged the wars of 1948, 1955, 1956, 1967, and 1973 in defense of Palestinian rights and the Palestinian people and lands, and offered up one hundred thousand martyrs.

Egypt stood on the side of the Yemeni people and their revolution; and the martyrs of Egypt have written, together with the martyrs of Yemen, a new chapter in the history and life of the Yemeni people.

Egypt's fedayeen and pilots stood on the side of the Nigerian people in defense of their unity and territorial integrity when one of its provinces—Biafra—was exposed to separation.

The series of Egyptian stands—despite the great sacrifices—on the side of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan, and the rest of the Arab and African countries is evidence that Egypt—the role, position, and principle—is always ready to offer all sacrifices on the side of the brothers as long as the stance is that of justice, the issue is fair, and the defense is against an aggression.

This is how Egypt was. And today, Egypt reiterates the same position. This is the firm and lasting principle that governs Egyptian policy throughout history.

Finally, the Jordanian decision—whether it is a suspect or innocent one—came at the wrong time. It was taken without a clear reason. And its fate, like other similar decisions, will be loss and regret.

Egypt—the principle, the peak, and the role—will remain.

## Opposition Parties To Boycott Assembly Elections

*NC1810154090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—The Higher Committee of the Socialist Labor Party [SLP] will hold a meeting on the evening of 19 October under the chairmanship of SLP Leader Engineer Ibrahim Shukri to make a final decision on the party's participation in the upcoming People's Assembly elections.

A source in the party has said that the committee will make a decision to abstain from and boycott the elections, which are scheduled for 29 November. The decision will be made in view of the fact that the government has not responded to demands by opposition party leaders or shown willingess to act upon a memorandum submitted by party leaders to the presidential office. The memorandum demands that judicial bodies supervise the elections and that emergency laws be lifted.

In another development, Liberal Party Leader Mustafa Kamil Murad has announced that his party will boycott the 29 November People's Assembly elections. He justitifed his stand by the fact that opposition demands, including those requesting judicial bodies' supervision of the election process in local and general polling stations, have not been honored. [passage omitted]

## Rwandan President Meets Mubarak Briefly, Departs

*NC1810160890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana left Cairo for France following a brief stopover at Cairo airport, where he held talks with President Husni Mubarak. The talks dealt with a number of international and regional issues which concern both countries, primarily the Gulf crisis and African border and debt issues. Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Rwandan ambassador in Cairo took part in the talks.

Following the talks, Dr. Ghali stated that Egypt's preoccupation with the Gulf issue was not at the expense of African issues. He added that the Rwandan president came to Egypt to brief President Mubarak on and to take his advice concerning the situation in Rwanda, where some rebels have arrived from Uganda. He added that the Rwandan president will head for France to obtain President Francois Mitterrand's advice on this issue.

Dr. Ghali added that the Rwandan president had entrusted him with the task of finding diplomatic approaches to assisting Rwanda in resolving its crisis. He added that Egypt will make efforts toward this.

## 'Abd-al-Majid, Nigerian Minister Discuss Gulf

*NC1810162690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Zakari Ibrahim, Nigerian minister of state for foreign affairs, who stated after the meeting that he and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid discussed current African issues and developments in the Gulf situation.

The Nigerian state minister said Nigeria supports the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. He praised relations linking Egypt and Nigeria. He added that the Nigerian president's message which he had conveyed to President Husni Mubarak is part of the continuous consultations between the two presidents. He noted that the message was in response to a message which President Mubarak had sent earlier to the Nigerian leader.

## Government Applies for Readmission Into IDA

*NC1910091290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Egypt has recently filed a request with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development [IBRD] to be readmitted into the International Development Association [IDA]. Egypt's membership in the IDA ended in 1981 because of the rise in its per capita income. Readmission into the IDA will allow Egypt to benefit from the loans that the IDA provides at zero interest rate for repayment over periods of 35-40 years to member countries with a per capita income of less than $650 at 1988 prices.

## Libya

### Sudanese Envoy Salih Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

#### Delivers Al-Bashir Message

*LD1510103990 Tripoli JANA in English 0805 GMT 15 Oct 90*

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tomor [October] 15, Jamahiriya News Agency—The leader of the revolution received yesterday Staff Col. Bakri H. Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan.

Staff Col. Salih relayed to the leader a letter from Lt.Gen 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in sisterly Sudan.

Staff Col. Salih arrived early yesterday afternoon on a visit to great Jamahiriya.

#### Ends Visit, Departs 16 Oct

*LD1610225290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1617 GMT 16 Oct 90*

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Oct. (JANA)—Staff Colonel Bakri Hassan Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council of fraternal Sudan, and the delegation accompanying him, left Tripoli this evening after visiting the great Jamahiriyah.

### Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

*LD1710023790 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Oct 90*

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Oct (JANA)—The foreign minister of Sierra Leone, Abdul Karim Koroma, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the great Jamahiriyah.

### Tripoli Calls for Revision of UN Charter

*LD1310204990 Tripoli JANA in English 1709 GMT 13 Oct 90*

[Text] New York, Al Tomor [October] 13, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Great Jamahiryah has called for the revision of the United Nations Charter in light of the new international changes considering that the Charter was drafted after the 2nd World War and that the time has come to change this Charter to achieve equality amongst states.

The permanent delegate of Great Jamahiryah to the United Nations made clear before the 6th committee of the UN that the latter was in need of a legal study to determine the right treatment for eliminating the inaptitude which paralysed the role of the Security Council in maintaining international peace and security.

He pointed out that the failure of the Council lies in fact that some states and not others were given the veto privilege and that constitutes an obstacle in the face of international unanimity and a tool which may encourage aggression and terrorism.

He referred, in this respect, to the provisions of the Charter which entrenches continuously the domination of international events by major countries and uses them to realise individual gains.

The delegate reaffirmed the initiative of Great Jamahiryah aimed at enhancing and consolidating the role of the Security Council through the elimination of the negative effects resulting from the right of veto and that the decisions must be taken in a collective manner where all enjoy justice and equality.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Secretariat Officials

*LD1310212890 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Oct 90*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution, the man behind the era of the masses, today met the Secretariat of the General People's Congress and the Secretariat of the General People's Committee, who were elected by the trade unions and general trade associations at the extraordinary session held by the General People's Congress in Misratah, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of revenge day, and the expulsion of the remnants of the Italian invaders from the Arab Libyan territory.

Proceeding from his instigating role, the brother leader of the revolution stressed during this meeting the need to carry out the resolutions of the basic people's congresses, and the implementation of the revolutionary program adopted by the masses of the basic people's congresses at their previous sessions. He pointed out that the coming stage did not allow any negative points, waste, fabrication, or forgery.

During this meeting too, the brother leader of the revolution emphasized the importance of raising production and organizing the administrative apparatus in the great Jamahiriyah to guarantee the best services to citizens. He once again affirmed that the basic people's congresses hold decision, soverignty, and popular power.

### External Secretary Views Regional Issues

*PM1210160190 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 12 Oct 90 p 31*

[Interview with Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, "secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison" (now for Strategic Industries) by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date unspecified]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: The crisis of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has had a negative impact on the overall Arab situation, as Arab positions have varied. Can we briefly review the Libyan position on the Gulf crisis, especially in view of the Libyan initiatives and moves witnessed by the Arab region recently?

Al-Talhi: Libya's position on the Gulf crisis has been clear from the outset. We were the first to point out the dangers of the present situation to the Arab nation. On that basis we responded to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's call to participate in the Cairo Arab summit held in August to try to find a way out of the crisis. Our position pointed to condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait which, as brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said, was a breach of the Arab League Charter. This is because that invasion opened the door wide for the arrival of those numbers of U.S. and foreign forces in the Gulf region. And in an attempt to secure a way out of that dilemma, Libya worked actively and held dialogues with the Arab parties. And brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, presented an initiative referring to simultaneous withdrawal by the Iraqi and foreign forces; the replacement of the Iraqi forces by Arab forces; and the resolution of border, oil, and financial problems between the two countries within an Arab framework. We presented the initiative to the states concerned and it encountered Arab understanding and approval. Some states are studying it. Anyway, we are for continuing the efforts to arrive at an Arab solution that would prevent the tragic situation in the region from worsening.

AL-HAWADITH: What stage has been reached in Egyptian-Libyan relations? Have they achieved what is required of them after the restoration of normal relations between the two countries?

Al-Talhi: What I can say is that these relations can only be expected to proceed in a positive way toward strengthening ties and continued cooperation in all fields. If we look at the number of visits exchanged and meetings held between ministers of the two countries, we find that they cover the economic, agricultural, industrial, and other fields. There is a genuine desire to maintain fruitful cooperation in all fields. There is Egyptian-Libyan understanding at the official and popular levels on all issues. And certainly the stage ahead will witness a good and advanced form of relations between the two countries, especially in view of the studies being conducted to achieve further cohesion in all fields.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the Gulf crisis could have negative effects on the Maghreb Union's position, or is there accord among the Union states over the crisis on the one hand and the continuation of what was agreed at the recent Union summit on the other?

Al-Talhi: I believe that the recent crisis will have a negative impact on the Maghreb Union because there is general agreement on specific foundations for resolving it and examining its dimensions, and to continue work to achieve fruitful results, taking account of the success of the recent Maghreb Union, which assumed very special importance [sentence as published]. I believe that the customs union which it has been decided to institute before 1995 is a good indication of the existence of a political will and a real desire to make the Arab Maghreb Union plan—if the phrase is correct—a success. There are also the decision concerning a unified agricultural market and the decisions concerning movements, transit, investment, dual taxation, and many other areas. Major progress has been made in that regard.

More important is the clarity of vision and the determination of future plans which are to be focused upon. I believe that Maghreb Union steps are moving in the right direction. And we are confident that the Union will achieve much of what we are seeking, despite this short period. What has been achieved indicates that we must create that bloc. And we emphasize that, whatever may happen, that bloc is a step on the road to Arab unity.

AL-HAWADITH: It seems from your answer that the sequence of your priorities regarding Maghreb Union action has moved from the political issues to focus on the economic issues.

Al-Talhi: Undoubtedly we devote attention to all fields in order to gain achievements within the Maghreb Union. Within the Maghreb Union's interests, priority is given to the economic and cultural aspects. We realize the importance of the economic aspect in realizing our aspirations in the political fields.

AL-HAWADITH: Some people believe that the delay in announcing which state will host the Maghreb Union's headquarters and who the secretary-general will be indicate that there are differences among its states. What is the truth?

Al-Talhi: I do not believe there are differences in that regard. And do not forget that the agreement and treaty which stipulated the existence of a permanent secretariat and a permanent headquarters for it was not endorsed until June. A presidential decision on the secretariat's organizational bylaws was issued at the Union's recent session.

And it was agreed that contacts should be made among the leaders within a short period concerning the headquarters and the secretary-general. But I do not believe there is real disagreement over that issue. Perhaps some member states are thinking about proposing some candidates, but the matter has not been settled.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe there are dangers to the Arab Maghreb states from religious tendencies?

Al-Talhi: Naturally I should not comment on the stances of other states. But what I want to say is that Libya's position is special, as you know. We, for instance, do not suffer from severe economic problems, and we are a small, closely-knit society. I believe that no extremist religious, or general extremist phenomena are likely to take place on the right or the left.

AL-HAWADITH: It was proposed that a Libyan-Chadian meeting be held in Cairo some time ago, but it was held recently in Morocco. What has been achieved in the Libyan-Chadian problem?

Al-Talhi: We actually responded to President Husni Mubarak's call, and I understand that the other party agreed. But it had to do with the availability of time to organize that meeting. Morocco offered to welcome Libyan revolution leader al-Qadhdhafi and Chadian President Hissein Habre in an attempt to arrive at a formula to resolve the problem between the two countries. I believe that the two parties' commitment to the Algiers agreement and the other side's desire to soften the position and place obstacles in the way of implementing that agreement can end the problem [sentence as published].

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the Libyan-U.S. disagreement has subsided and there is a chance of overcoming it?

Al-Talhi: There is nothing new on that subject, especially as it seems that the United States has a scheme in that regard which began with the campaign against al-Rabitah plant and the allegation that Libya was behind the Abu-al-'Abbas operation. Despite our assurances in those two cases and the clarity of our position, the continuation of the hostile stances against us made us feel that we were facing attempts to find excuses for the threat of aggression. Our position and the U.S. position are known. Libya is a small country and our country's stability, security, and safety concern us. And we believe that it is in our interests and essential that we maintain good relations and cooperation with all, especially when the matter concerns a major state. But relations of cooperation require two sides, not just one. There were efforts by some parties to end that disagreement, but U.S. intransigence was probably behind the failure to end it.

AL-HAWADITH: Libyan-Sudanese relations have assumed various dimensions which could cause concern on many fronts.

Al-Talhi: I believe that Sudan's relations with Libya are relations of neighborliness, nothing more. And I do not believe that the agreement signed by the two sides has anything to concern or alarm others. They are special relations between two Arab countries in various fields. And they are not aimed against any party.

## Sudan

### Further on Visit by Iraq's Taha Yasin Ramadan

#### Meets With Al-Bashir

*JN1810122390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Khartoum 18 Oct (INA)—Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar Ahmad al-Bashir last night received Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, and the delegation accompanying him.

Mr. Ramadan conveyed to President al-Bashir greetings from his brother President Saddam Husayn and high appreciation from the leadership and people of Iraq for the genuine pan-Arab positions of the Sudanese people and government which reflect strict adherence to Arab causes and deep-rooted Arab affiliation. He stressed Iraq's concern about its fraternal ties with Sudan and its willingness to enhance and promote them under all circumstances.

Mr. Ramadan reviewed the dimensions of the imperialist U.S-Atlantic aggression against the Arab nation and threats to Iraq. What happened to the Croesus of Kuwait, he said, is the beginning of comprehensive change in the region. The revolution will spread against the agent rulers who stole the Arab nation's wealth, and these servants will not be protected by foreign forces when the free Arabs revolt, he added.

The first deputy prime minister stressed that Iraq is cooperating earnestly, and is putting forward initiatives to bring about full and comprehensive peace in the region, as reflected in President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. Meanwhile, it continues its military preparedness for the possibility of aggression and war sought by the Americans and their allies. He stressed that the region where the aggressors are present will turn into a graveyard for all the [foreign] forces and for the rulers of Najd, Hejaz, and the Arabian Peninsula who invited them.

Mr. Ramadan said that the Iraqis are becoming stronger and more steadfast, and that they will break the economic blockade and achieve victory in this major battle so that this can be an extension of the comprehensive upsurge and full awareness sparked by strong, victorious Iraq.

The Sudanese president conveyed through Mr. Ramadan his greetings to President Saddam Husayn and stressed that the position of the leadership and people of Sudan is firm and steady, and their support for Iraq is by all means increasing.

He referred to the fraternal relations and the wide cooperation between Iraq and Sudan, and expressed confidence in the future of these relations in both the short and long run.

The Sudanese president stressed that President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative is the peak of just legitimacy because it is just, legal, and based on Arab, Islamic, and international legitimacy and on right and justice.

He said Arab, Islamic, and international public opinion supports the initiative because it besieged all advocates of international legitimacy who proved to have violated international laws and conventions.

The Sudanese president stressed that Iraq will emerge triumphant from this battle because it enjoys the support of all free Arabs. He said that the Arab nation has regained its will and will not bargain. He said the dwarf rulers, agents of America and its Zionist allies, will be finished, and their foreign masters will not come to their aid.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council; Colonel 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, foreign minister; and Tariq Hasan Yahya, Iraq's ambassador in Khartoum.

### Departs After Two-Day Visit

*EA1810184090 Khartoum SUNA in English 1024 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Khartoum, 18 October (SUNA)—Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan left here today concluding a two-day official visit to [words indistinct] Revolution Command Council General 'Umar al-Bashir. Talks between al-Bashir and Ramadan centred on bilateral relations and the Gulf crisis.

The Iraqi official was (?seen) off at Khartoum Airport by member of the Revolution Command Council, al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir and other senior officials.

### Ugandan Ministerial Delegation Arrives for Talks

*EA1910110490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Excerpt] A Ugandan ministerial delegation led by Internal Affairs Minister Ibrahim Mukiibi arrived in the country at noon today to attend the meetings of the joint ministerial committee between Sudan and Uganda which will begin on Saturday, 20 October, in Khartoum. The Ugandan delegation comprises representatives of the Ministries of Transport, Commerce, Defense, Foreign Affairs, Justice and Internal Affairs. [passage omitted]

## Tunisia

### President Receives Message From Yemeni Leader

*LD0610052790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Oct 90*

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, dealing with developments of the Gulf crisis. This message was conveyed by the Yemeni president's personal envoy, 'Abd-al-Wahab Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hamid, the minister of electricity and water.

### Popular Leaders, Poets Express Support for Saddam

*JN0710192390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 7 Oct 90*

[Text] Tunis, 7 Oct (INA)—The Tunisian masses have reiterated their absolute solidarity with Iraq under President Saddam Husayn in his legitimate defense against the U.S.-Western onslaught against the Arab nation and its future security. At a big speech rally held here today and attended by party leaders and the heads of popular and professional organizations, the Tunisian masses declared that they will stand at the front line in defense of Iraq and the Arab nation. Similar rallies were held today in other Tunisian cities.

Popular Party Unity leader Mohamed Bel Hadj Amor delivered a speech in which he declared that the troops and fleets besieging Iraq have come not to defend the agent regimes which invited these forces, but to control Arab wealth and defend Israel to enable it to remain in the Arab homeland.

Al-Munsif al-Marzuqi, head of the Tunisian human rights association, denounced the Security Council resolutions, which are aimed at starving Iraq's people, children, and women. He described them as having violated the UN Charter, international norms, and humanitarian principles.

He also affirmed that all international charters ban the use of starvation and siege against peoples who want to determine their own future. He reiterated his association's support for Iraq in its confrontation of the foreign invasion forces.

Mohamed Harmel, general secretary of the Tunisian Communist Party, called for linking the Middle East issues with the current situation in the Arabian Gulf, stressing the need for a fair application of international law to all problems in the region.

He also called for breaking the siege of Iraq, which represents a brilliant military and economic power in the Arab homeland and which defends the Arab destiny, security, and future.

Mohamed Ali Khalaf, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Socialist Movement, denounced the treasonous positions of some Arab rulers who have sent their troops to Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] under the U.S. flag to confront the brave Iraqi Army. He stressed the absolute support for Iraq of the masses in his movement in order to repulse the new aggression which has desecrated the holy land in Najd and Hejaz and the Arabian Peninsula.

'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kilani, head of the Tunisian lawyers society, stressed that all the Arab masses support Iraq in its confrontation of the brutal U.S.-Western onslaught against Iraq's achievements and its growing Arab force.

He explained that the U.S.-Western presence in Najd and Hejaz is aimed at humiliating the Arab nation by desecrating its sanctities and destroying its free options in building its force and regaining its legitimate rights in Palestine.

Hisham Ju'ayt, chairman of the higher Tunisian committee for supporting Iraq, called for strongly backing Iraq and its people to enable them to confront all forms of aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

A number of prominent Tunisian poets also read pieces of poetry epitomizing the Arab masses' interaction with Iraq under President Saddam Husayn in the fateful battle to regain the Arab rights. Among these poets were al-Maydani Bin-Salih, Suf 'Ubayd, al-Munsif al-Mizghanni, 'Ali al-Dubb, Husayn al-'Uri, and 'Abdallah Malik al-Qasimi [names as received].

### President Meets With Democratic Union Leader

*LD1310213390 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 90*

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this afternoon received Mr. Abderrahman Tlili, secretary-general of the Unionist and Democratic General Union, who made the following statement after the meeting:

[Tlili] I have had the honor of being received by the president of the Republic, who has been working ceaselessly to unify the national front and to strengthen it by meeting all national sides, whether parties or organizations. The meeting dealt with several issues, especially the development of the Gulf crisis, and its impact on the international, national, and Arab situation.

I believe it is necessary to maintain national cohesion, away from furor and one-upmanship, and to work harder in order to achieve our development objectives. The meeting also dealt with issues pertaining to national political life.

## Kuwait

### Shaykh Sa'ad Comments on Resistance, Liberation

*AU1810124190 Vienna WOCHENPRESSE in German 18 Oct 90 pp 28-30*

[Interview with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah by Lucian O. Meysels; place and date not given: "A Devilish Plot"]

[Text] [Meysels] Are the organs of the Kuwaiti Government-in-exile fully functioning?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] The Kuwaiti state is led by his majesty the amir who represents Kuwait through his legal government and his ministers under the chairmanship of the crown prince.

[Meysels] Are you in constant contact with the resistance movement within Kuwait?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] The legal government of the state of Kuwait is in constant contact with the Kuwaiti resistance movement in Kuwait and abroad, which receives its instructions from the legal government.

[Meysels] Are there any organized attempts by the invaders to drive a major part of the Kuwaiti people out of the country, and to replace them with Iraqi citizens?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] The occupation forces are pursuing a devilish plan to drive the Kuwaitis out of the country and change the population structure in Kuwait. In a recent statement, the Kuwaiti Government confirmed that 1,500 apartments of Kuwaitis were given to Iraqis. In doing so, the occupation forces employ inhuman methods. They send their people to houses where Kuwaiti families live and force the owners to leave their houses.

[Meysels] Do you have any contacts with the Iraqi opposition to the regime of Saddam Husayn?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] To our knowledge, the Iraqi opposition has for years continued its activities with the goal of overthrowing the regime of Saddam Husayn. All opposition forces agreed in Damascus recently to form a government-in-exile. We support all those who help us liberate our country.

[Meysels] Is there a danger that the current international solidarity with Kuwait could be undermined in the course of time—before it has reached its goals?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] We do not believe that international support for Kuwait will weaken in the course of time. On the contrary, as long as Saddam Husayn continues to ignore international opinion, international support for Kuwait will increase. However, we are very worried about our people in Kuwait which have been deprived of all their basic rights.

[Meysels] Do you believe that the timely arrival of U.S. and other troops has prevented Saddam Husayn from pursuing his aggression even further?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] The role of the international forces consists of carrying out the Security Council resolutions on the basis of international responsibility and for protecting international peace.

[Meysels] Do you think that the liberation of Kuwait can be achieved by sanctions alone?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] What we are interested in is that Kuwait liberates itself in accordance with the international consensus, no matter by what means. However, the Iraqi Hitler regime will reject civilized peaceful means because the decision rests with a bloodthirsty dictator. As for the economic blockade, its effect is limited and takes much time because the dictator's regime is by no means concerned about the people. It does not even allow the people to express their opinion.

[Meysels] If military measures must be taken to liberate your country, how many soldiers could Kuwait itself mobilize for the battle?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] We are aware that the small Kuwaiti Army would have to make many sacrifices, given the Iraqi Army's superiority. However, our Army is about to reorganize itself and will be strengthened by thousands of Kuwaiti volunteers as well as by continuous training.

[Meysels] Given the Iraqi Army's numerical superiority and its superiority in equipment, would Arab troops alone be able to drive the invaders out of the country?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] We think the estimates on the strength of the Iraqi Army are exaggerated. In any case, quality and not quantity is what counts. It may be that the Iraqi Army has modern weapons. However, the Army itself is backward and uncivilized.

[Meysels] How do you explain Yasir 'Arafat's hostile position, in view of the fact that Kuwait supported the Palestinian cause in the past?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] This position was a great disappointment, not only for the Kuwaiti Government and people but also for all honest Arabs. Regarding our support for the Palestinian cause, this support is for the principles and not for the individual people, and we will continue to support the struggle of the Palestinian people, no matter under what circumstances.

[Meysels] Will the Palestinians need to have a new credible leadership to implement their cause?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] The PLO has betrayed its principles. On the one hand, it wants to liberate its land, but on the other hand, it helps the Iraqi aggressor to occupy Kuwait—and this despite the tens of thousands of Palestinians who live in Kuwait and have also lost everything owing to the occupation. The PLO leadership has isolated itself at all levels—at the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels. In addition, it has strengthened the Iraqi occupation forces by the so-called units of the "Palestinian Army" which it got from Iraq and strengthened by elements from Lebanon. We are convinced that the Palestinians will strictly condemn their leadership if they are permitted to express their opinion democratically.

[Meysels] Is the liberation of Kuwait a prerequisite for a solution to other urgent problems in the Middle East?

[Shaykh Sa'ad] The liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of law and order will certainly entail many changes in the region—all the more so since the international alliance will play a role in solving the difficult problems, including the Middle East problem.

## Minister Calls For Implementing UN Resolutions

*PM1810131490 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 16 Oct 90 p 15*

[Interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh al-Nasir by Dominique Lagarde in Jeddah; date not given]

[Text] [Lagarde] What do you think of Francois Mitterrand's statement to the United Nations calling for "democratic expression" for the Kuwaiti people?

[Al-Nasir] We are in favor of democracy, and democracy is not a new thing in our country. His Highness the Crown Prince clearly referred to the 1962 Constitution in his speech.

[Lagarde] So, after Kuwait's liberation there will be new elections based on the 1962 Constitution?

[Al-Nasir] That is what his highness said. You held elections after the liberation. You even changed to a republic. We do not need to change the Constitution, but I can assure you that there will be elections.

[Lagarde] What will you do with the National Council? (Footnote) (A consultative council elected a few months ago and disputed by the opposition)

[Al-Nasir] It will automatically be dissolved.

[Lagarde] Do you think that Kuwaiti women should have the right to vote?

[Al-Nasir] That will require an amendment to the Constitution, but why not! One of our deputy secretaries of state is a woman.

[Lagarde] Do you think that the embargo alone is capable of forcing Saddam Husayn to back down, or do you think that the military option is inevitable?

[Al-Nasir] We want peace. But at the same time we want the resolutions adopted by the Cairo Arab summit and the UN Security Council to be fully implemented. That is our position.

[Lagarde] Does that mean that no territorial compromise is possible?

[Al-Nasir] Absolutely. We are asking the United Nations to fully implement all the Security Council resolutions.

[Lagarde] Might you envisage negotiations between Kuwait and Iraq after withdrawal from your country, particularly on the border question?

[Al-Nasir] Did you read that in the Security Council resolutions? No. Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally.

[Lagarde] How do you assess Yasir 'Arafat's position?

[Al-Nasir] We must make a distinction between the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership. The Palestinians are our brothers. If some of their leaders do not agree with the Security Council resolutions, then God help them. But we will never change our position with regard to our Palestinian brothers.

[Lagarde] Are you not afraid that the U.S. military deployment in the region may eventually be a source of destabilization?

[Al-Nasir] Who but Iraq is responsible for that deployment?

## Defense Minister Cited on Troop Training in UAE

*PM1810134490 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 13 Oct 90 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Defense Minister Says: Training Begins in Emirates Today"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir has said that the program to train Kuwaiti volunteers in the use of weapons in order to participate in the battle to liberate Kuwait will start in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] today, Saturday. The program will last several weeks and will include fitness exercises and the use of the offensive combat weapons that can benefit citizens.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', the minister said that a date has not yet been set for the training program for Kuwaiti volunteers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, but arrangements are being made to start training at various locations soon. Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad praised the Kuwaiti youths, who he said have demonstrated their sense of responsibility and are rushing in huge numbers to recruitment centers in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt. He also said that the Defense Ministry has set the legal age limits for volunteers as 21 minimum and 35 maximum. Until yesterday the numbers of volunteers meeting these conditions totaled 3,700 in Saudi Arabia and 395 in Egypt.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said that the Defense Ministry welcomes Kuwait's sons who are under the legal age limit and wish to volunteer, but the resources available at the moment cannot handle the huge numbers of volunteers. This is why the ministry is thinking seriously about reconsidering the legal age limit for Kuwaitis in future.

## Qatar

### Diplomatic Ties Established With Hungary 18 Oct

*JN1810123690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Doha, 18 Oct (WAKH)—The State of Qatar and the Republic of Hungary have decided to establish diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level as of today.

A statement issued by the Qatari Foreign Ministry, and carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, states that out of their desire to strengthen and improve the ties of friendship and cooperation between their two countries, the Government of the State of Qatar and the Government of the Republic of Hungary have decided to establish diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level.

Both parties expressed their confidence that the establishment of diplomatic ties and the exchange of ambassadors will help improve international cooperation, bolster international peace, and entrench the noble principles of the Nonaligned Movement.

The State of Qatar and the Republic of Hungary underline their readiness to build their bilateral relations in accordance with the UN Charter and on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, equality, mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and noninterference in the other party's internal affairs.

### Minister Returns From Arab League Session

*JN1910083290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Excerpt] Doha, 19 Oct (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir returned to Doha today from Tunis after heading the meetings of the Arab League Council's emergency session, which concluded its meetings there last night. [passage omitted]

## Saudi Arabia

### 'Desert Rats,' Equipment Arrive at Al-Jubayl

*LD1810114290 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1051 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] The first Desert Rats and a ship carrying their equipment arrived in Saudi Arabia today.

The 12,000-ton Danish-flagged Dana Cimbria berthed in the north- eastern Saudi port of al-Jubayl after a three-week voyage from Bremerhaven in Germany.

A batch of 150 soldiers from the 7th Armoured Brigade arrived from Hamburg. Their flight will be followed by others every day for the next two weeks.

The ship was met at the quayside by the commander of 7th Armoured Brigade, Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, and Major General John Hopkins Junior, deputy commanding general of the U.S. 1st Marine Expeditionary Force [MEF]. The roll-on roll-off [Ro-Ro] ferry was carrying armoured personnel carriers, eight and four-ton trucks, tank transporters, armoured recovery vehicles and Land Rovers. The vehicles were taken to maintenance workshops which have been constructed over the past three weeks by men from the Royal Engineers.

The first of the 120 Challenger tanks are due to arrive in Al- Jubayl on Saturday [20 Oct] on board the landing ship Sir Bedivere.

Thirty six merchant ships have been chartered, including 24 Ro- Ro's, to help carry out the massive sealift of Challengers, M109 Howitzers, warrior armoured fighting vehicles and other equipment.

All the brigade's 9,500 men should be in place before the end of the month.

As soon as the vehicles arrive at Al-Jabayl they will be modified to cope with the problems of sand and heat. Special sand filters will be fitted together with heat shields. They will then move immediately to their positions close to the border with Iraqi- occupied Kuwait behind a thin screen of Saudi and other Arab forces. Once in position, they will be used in training for two weeks before being declared fully operational by mid-November.

The Desert Rats will be integrated closely with the U.S. 1st MEF—the Challengers providing vital heavy armour while the Americans provide helicopter support.

"Our firepower is so great that our morale is quite high," said Brigadier Cordingley.

The Rats are confident the challengers will operate well in the hostile desert conditions. They have probably the best armour in the world and their 120mm guns pack the biggest punch of any tank facing Iraq.

### King Fahd, Argentina's Cavallo Discuss Crisis

*PY1810143090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1225 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Oct (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia have exchanged views on the situation in the Persian Gulf and evaluated events that have taken place since Iraq's intervention in Kuwait.

According to a Foreign Ministry report, both parties agreed that the meeting was "very successful." Cavallo and the Saudi monarch talked extensively during the afternoon of 17 October; the meeting, which was held in Jeddah, lasted two hours and 10 minutes. The foreign minister later reported that King Fahd had stressed to him "the importance and value" of Argentina's presence through its vessels in the conflict area.

It is the Saudi king's belief that the problem that has resulted from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait "cannot be resolved just by a few countries; it has to be resolved by the international community as a whole, taking into account the fact that an attack against world peace has taken place."

Cavallo informed the king of his country's situation and the changes that are taking place in Argentina's internal economy and foreign policy. The king noted that these new policies open up various possibilities of promoting Arab investment in Argentina and added that he will urge his country's businessmen to give our country preferential treatment.

Cavallo will continue to discuss these topics today in a private audience with Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan, King Fahd's brother.

## United Arab Emirates

### Paper Urges 'Lightning' Operation To Free Kuwait

*JN1810172990 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Excerpt] Manama, Oct 18 (GNA)—A United Arab Emirates English language daily today scoffed at signals of partial solution for the Gulf crisis and said, "it would be contrary, indeed, to all principles of international conduct to allow Iraq to benefit from its aggression against Kuwait."

The Dubayy-based 'GULF NEWS' said in part: "There is no partial solution and no need for any fresh reminders, either, to Iraqi leaders of the unequivocal call that has been made by the U.N. Security Council and Arab League."

"However, the world has been reluctantly forced to take note of some indirect feelers from Baghdad, which fancies it can keep some strategic portion of Kuwaiti territory and still persuade the UN to call off its tough embargo and prompt the multi-national force to go home. Iraq must withdraw totally and unconditionally from Kuwait."

"Ironically, Baghdad seems to be using a top Soviet official Yevgeni Primakov, who met President Saddam Husayn last week, to convey this message to the U.S. But after U.S Secretary of State James Baker declared on Tuesday that there could be no partial solution, Baghdad shamefacely denied yesterday that it had ever indicated it would be willing to withdraw from any part of Kuwait. Such a denial is in line with the deception, bluster and propaganda that Baghdad is allowing in since August 2."

"If the family of nations agreed to any 'deal' which would let Baghdad keep some strategic portion of Kuwait, then it would be a gross betrayal of principle and an encouragement to Iraq and to any like-minded aggressor nation to resort to the same savage strategic [as received] in future to get what they want."

" The rejection of a partial solution is simply an honest and courageous declaration of principle: The aggressor cannot be allowed to benefit by his action. On the contrary, he will have to pay in full for every single crime that has committed [as received] against an innocent people."

Qatari daily AL-RAYAH underlined the impossible task of achieving a peaceful solution that would end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in view of Iraq's repeated announcements that it would never withdraw from Kuwait, meaning that its policy concerning Kuwait was not changed. The paper said only one option remained for the world and that of launching a lightning and destructive military operation to liberate Kuwait and save the world from a monstrous dictator and to restore stability to the Gulf region which had suffered long enough from the bloody Iraqi regime.

The paper concluded stressing that Kuwait would return to its rightful people despite the Iraqi dictator's designs because the world community and military might represented in the multinational forces deployed in the Gulf region are able and committed to enforce its will to uphold international law and respect for the world legitimacy. [passage omitted]

### Pakistani Finance Minister Departs After Visit

*JN1810173390 Manama WAKH in English 1515 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 18 (GNA)—Pakistani Minister of Finance, Economic Affairs and Planning Sartaj Aziz left today after a two-day visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates].

While here, he gave a letter to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest. He also had talks on economic cooperation with UAE officials.

## Saudi Arabia Sent Protest on Airspace Violation

*JN1810133190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—An official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

At 0822 on the morning of 16 October 1990 a hostile formation consisting of two planes violated our international airspace for a distance of four kilometers during sorties in the al-Ma‘aniyah region on the Iraqi-Saudi border southeast of the ‘Ar‘ar-al-Nakhib line at a height of seven kilometers.

A protest memorandum has been submitted to the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Baghdad on this subject.

## Foreigners in Kuwait Ordered To Register

*NC1910105190 Paris AFP in English 1038 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 19 (AFP)—Iraq has issued a two-week ultimatum to foreigners living in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait to sign up with immigration authorities or face sanctions, an official statement said here Friday.

"Arab and foreign nationals (in Kuwait) must present themselves to the immigration authorities in the province of Kuwait starting Saturday and until November 5," the statement said citing a communique released in Kuwait.

All foreigners who fail to abide by these measures will "expose themselves to legal proceedings and the definitive cancellation of their stay," the communique said.

No reasons for this new ultimatum were invoked.

Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council adopted a similar measure on August 25 and said that those who tried to evade this decision, including Kuwaitis or Iraqis harbouring foreigners, could face a death sentence.

Last month Iraq renewed its appeal and on September 27 sent a note to embassies in Baghdad requesting a list of foreign nationals residing there.

Most of the 1.5 million foreigners who were in Kuwait before Iraqi troops invaded the emirate on August 2 have left the Gulf state, which Iraq later annexed. But some 5,000 Westerners and Japanese are still believed to be in Iraq and Kuwait.

## Paper Says 'No Retreat' From Retaining Kuwait

*JN1910085590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that one of the firm facts which everyone must realize and face is that the Governorate of Kuwait is part of Iraq and that Iraq will fight to defend it, just as it would fight to defend Baghdad, al-Sulaymaniyah, and al-Basrah.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says: After all, Iraq is not standing alone in the field of the major battle, but all Arabs and honorable militants are standing alongside it. They believe that Iraq's battle is theirs. They also believe it is the battle of Arab destiny, and the battle to liberate Palestine from its Zionist usurpers and regain Jerusalem and the sanctities.

The paper explains that with the declaration of blessed eternal unity and the return of the Governorate of Kuwait to its folk and origin in Iraq on 8 August, a new historic phase in the struggle of our people and nation began. The most distinguished feature of this phase is the comprehensive pan-Arab awakening and the tempestuous mass rising all over the Arab homeland in face of the most savage imperialist-Zionist campaign against Iraq and the Arab nation, represented by the U.S. invasion of the Arab Gulf and Peninsula and the preparations for a frenzied aggression against Iraq.

The paper adds: Despite the fact that the United States and its allies and little agents have tried all forms of pressure and political, economic, military, and psychological terrorism against Iraq, and continue to fabricate false justifications and pretexts to increase tension in the region and push things to the edge of an abyss and explosion, they have clearly failed to influence Iraq's firm and clear position. They have also failed in their desperate attempt to force Iraq to retreat. With its awareness and deep belief in its legitimate national and historic rights, and with its high state of readiness to fight the major battle, Iraq has confounded the camp of evildoers, and forced them to reconsider their scheme and search for new means and tactics to achieve what they have failed to achieve through military and political pressure, and through the psychological war and economic blockade.

The paper goes on to say: On that basis, the evildoers and tyrants have resorted to a very malicious tactic that aims to achieve two things at the same time; namely, to cover and camouflage their moves and preparations to stage aggression against Iraq, and second, to try to deceive our people and reduce their awareness. Thus, they created a stream of false statements and allegations through the news agencies and newspapers, trying to suggest that there is some change in Iraq's position and that Iraq may withdraw from here or there. However, this tactic was soon exposed, and they failed once again in their attempt to mix the cards and cover for their military preparations and moves for paving the way for an aggression against Iraq.

The paper stresses that all U.S. and British threats and all unfair resolutions they issued in the UN Security Council have failed to influence Iraq's position or frighten it; and that, despite its heavy burdens, the economic blockade they imposed against our people has not and will not succeed in breaking our people's will and their determination to resist, confront, and expel the U.S. and Atlantic invasion forces.

The paper wonders how one can believe that the lofty, mighty Iraq, which is challenging the evildoers, can possibly change its position or retreat from its historic achievement.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: In addition to their malicious and evil intentions, by making these unfounded allegations and statements, they aim, in part, to cover up for the ugly Zionist massacre in the al-Aqsa Mosque and divert attention from the scandalous resolution issued by the UN Security Council in this regard, and from the declared Zionist rejection of the resolution and Tel Aviv's refusal to receive the UN team to investigate the Zionist crime.

Concluding its editorial, the paper stresses: Our position is firm and clear. It has not changed, and will not change, and there will be no retreat from our historic achievement and eternal decision to return the branch to the root. Not only this, but let everyone interested in knowing things know that if the evildoers try their bad luck to stage aggression against our people, we will turn their aggression into a catastrophe and make the Arab land a graveyard for the invaders. No matter how much they deploy and no matter how they maneuver and prepare themselves, they will only reap disgrace, shame, destruction, and a large number of sad coffins. This is our final decision, and we will triumph.

## Arab Parliamentarians' Conference Opens 18 Oct

*JN1810162590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—The Arab parliamentarians' meeting began at the conference hall this morning under the slogan: "Blood Will Not Enable You To Keep the Land of Palestine and Arab People's Holy Shrines. It is Better for You To Withdraw." The Arab parliamentarians will discuss in their meetings appropriate ways for taking a united Arab parliamentarian stand on the bestial and heinous crime committed by the Zionist gangs against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people at al-Haram al-Sharif [al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock compound] in Jerusalem on the eighth of this month. They will also review the latest Arab and international developments after the American and Atlantic invasion of the holy Arab territories in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih, speaker of the [Iraqi] National Assembly, delivered a speech in which he said the Zionist enemy on the eighth of this month committed an ugly crime, which was to shed Palestinian blood once again at the entrances of, and inside al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem. Tens of martyrs and hundreds of injured, among them women, children, elderly, and defenseless youths, were the victims of this crime. Their noble blood covered the distance of 200 meters between the Dome of the Rock and the al-Aqsa Mosque, the first Qiblah and the third holiest shrine. This blood seemed to be repeating the chant of God is great, God is great. It seemed to scream out to the Arab masses and humanitarian consciences to stand up and face this heinous crime. He added that the Zionist enemy would not have committed this massacre had it not been for the circle of treachery that, unfortunately, includes some Arab regimes, such as the regime of the betrayer of the two holy mosques [King Fahd of Saudi Arabia] who brought American and Zionist forces to the holiest of all Arab and Islamic lands—the land of the Prophet's tomb and holy Mecca—and Husni Mubarak's regime, which allows the Israeli flag to flutter over the land of the Nile and has so far not reacted in an appropriate way to the magnitude of this crime, such as closing down the Israeli Embassy in Cairo or recalling the Egyptian regime's ambassador in Tel Aviv.

The bloody tragedy in the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard in Holy Jerusalem proves that there is no solution without a full guarantee for the rights of the Palestinian people to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. He said that any attempt to ignore this fact is only an attempt to duck the responsibility and to perpetuate the tension and struggle in our region, which gravely threatens international peace and security. This reaffirms the importance and necessity of implementing President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August, which provides a just and comprehensive solution for all the problems in the region and organically links the Palestine question, the issue of Lebanon, and the events in the Arabian Gulf.

The flimsy pretexts and falsehoods advanced by Bush and the Zionists in justification of the American occupation of Najd and Hejaz, the planned aggression on Iraq, and the crimes against the Palestinian people have been shown for what they are. Meanwhile, support for and solidarity with Iraq have been gaining momentum on the Arab and world fronts, with Arab masses in every corner of the Arab world—even in the states ruled by traitors and agents—rushing to Iraq's side of justice and faith. These masses have made plain they are available to do battle against invaders and aggressors, and to cleanse Arab land of their defilement and their lackeys who stand for evil, treason, and corruption.

Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih said: Driven by full pan-Arab commitment linking American occupation of Najd and Hejaz and the Zionist occupation of Palestine, Iraq vigorously condemns the al-Aqsa Mosque outrage, reaffirms the need for the complete liberation of Jerusalem and all the occupied Arab territories in Palestine. It further condemns the Arab regimes that have buried their heads in the sand like ostriches, having abetted foreign aggression on well-meaning Arabs, and cleared the path for the defilement of sacred Arab land.

Having perpetrated their abomination, the Zionists have thus disparaged the Arab nation and offended Muslim sentiments. The proper response to this atrocity should be the consolidation of an Arab-Islamic, combatant front grouping the faithful and their honorable, free leaders in preparation for the major battle to free Palestine.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council, gave a speech appreciative of President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August.

The initiative, he said, represents the ideal approach to peace and to an all-inclusive solution to all outstanding problems in the region. It also promises to spare the region a devastating war constantly threatened by the United States.

Right from the start, added al-Sa'ih, great Iraq, whose courageous leader Saddam Husayn put forward his historic initiative, understood the implications and dangers inherent in the foreign invasion, which seeks to do violence to the security and dignity of the Arab nation, and to thwart its legitimate unionist aspirations.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih also reviewed the details of the criminal Zionist scheme under the umbrella of its unholy alliance with the United States against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories. He pointed out that the ignominious crime committed by the Zionist entity's authorities in the al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem only reflects the Zionists' striving after their primary aim; namely, to humiliate Arabs and Muslims. He stressed that Zionist schemes, which are being carried out in various stages, represent in reality an indivisible whole.

He also revealed the facts of the imperialist and Zionist schemes that have moved the Arab-Israeli conflict onto the threshold of a serious stage, through their desecration of the holy Arab territories in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

In addition, Shaykh al-Sa'ih called on the United States and its allies to withdraw their forces from the holy Arab territories and to leave the Arab nation to resolve its problems by itself in the context of the one Arab family without any foreign intervention.

He added that readiness on the part of the Arab nation to follow the path of long, continued struggle, supported by resolve and determination and faith, is the best way to expose the Zionist methods and their false claims until clear victory is won over enemies and heretics.

Concluding his speech, Shaykh al-Sa'ih appealed to Arabs and Muslims all over the globe to work sincerely and earnestly on the side of the Palestinian Arab people in their just and legitimate struggle against the blatant Zionist aggression, so as to protect Arab and Islamic sanctities in Palestine and Najd and Hejaz.

## Travelers on Plot To Overthrow Egyptian Regime

*JN1810121790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—The Egyptian security authorities have launched a campaign of large-scale arrests and raids against Egyptian citizens, Palestinians, and other Arab residents in Egypt following the tension created by reports that a group of free officers has prepared a plan to overthrow Husni [Mubarak] and change the regime.

The newspaper AL-NIDA' quoted travelers who left Cairo recently as saying U.S. central intelligence organs and the Israeli Mosad have provided Egyptian intelligence with information about this plan and the military units which were to carry it out.

The travelers explained that the authorities of Husni's regime immediately imposed strict security measures on persons arriving at and departing from Egyptian airports, harbors, and border posts in an attempt to detain those involved in the plan.

The authorities also set up barriers and roadblocks on roads and bridges inside and outside the cities in order to stop vehicles and search passengers. In these rampant campaigns, which Egyptians now call "midnight ambushes," opposition members are detained and taken to unknown destinations.

AL-NIDA' says there is a strong feeling of resentment within the armed forces because of the Egyptian regime's enthusiastic support for the U.S.-Israeli-reactionary current and its involvement of the Egyptian Army by dispatching military units to Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]. The U.S. forces, the paper adds, want to use the Egyptian soldier as a scapegoat in any possible military confrontation.

Travelers who arrived in the Jordanian capital from Cairo said that Egyptian intelligence men have raided the apartments of Palestinian citizens who have been resident in Egypt for many years, detaining men and youths and taking them away for interrogation. They also said that intelligence men have also raided stores belonging to Palestinian merchants, detaining their owners and taking them away to an unknown destination.

## Paper Says UN Must Prove Independence From U.S.

*JN1910093290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has warned the UN Security Council and its permanent members against following U.S. policy, which is hostile to Arabs.

In its editorial today, the paper says: The growing problems in the Middle East put the UN Security Council before a new test—which may be the last—to prove its credibility as an international institution whose task is to secure peace in the world on the basis of fair standards, instead of being accused of subservience to the U.S. Administration in passing resolutions that serve its interests and hegemony in the world.

The paper adds: At a time when the Zionist entity refuses to receive the UN team, which the UN Security Council has decided to dispatch to investigate the holy al-Aqsa crime, there are reports about plans by Washington to impose new, unfair resolutions against Iraq under the cover of keeping the Gulf crisis in the limelight. Thus, Washington reveals its main objective; that is, to impose a blackout on the Palestinian cause and confront the world's positive response toward the leader's [Saddam Husayn] initiative of 12 August, which calls for linking all issues of the region, including the usurpation of Palestine, with the Gulf crisis.

The paper stresses that Iraq is confident that the UN Security Council permanent member states fully realize the dimensions of the new U.S. move and the meaning of the Zionist entity's refusal to receive the UN team. Therefore, these states must pass the test to prove their independence from U.S. policies and refute the charges, which have almost become facts, that the UN Security Council has become one of the White House departments.

The paper warns against ignoring the massacres against the Palestinians and denying their legitimate rights to their territory. This, the paper says, will lead to a catastrophe for which the United States and all the Western countries and Arab agents—such as the betrayer of the two holy mosques and Husni, Egypt's ruler—will bear responsibility. The paper also warns against the U.S. invasion of the Muslims' sacred places and against the U.S. occupation of oil wells and Arab wealth in the Gulf, which has put the region on top of a barrel of dynamite that needs only a small matchstick to explode.

The paper concludes by saying: This is the last chance for the Security Council and the world community represented by the United Nations. It either allows the United States and its mad president, George Bush, along with his Zionist entity, to annihilate the people of Palestine and set the world on fire, or hold the balance of justice from the middle.

## 'Opposition' Issues Statement on Aims, Charter

*LD1210120890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 12 Oct 90*

[Text] London, 12 Oct (SPA)—Iraqi opposition sources have announced that it recently finalized its new charter.

In a statement published today, the sources said that the charter, which was drawn up by all the opposition groups, contains four basic points: To topple the current regime, give the people the opportunity to choose their rulers, consider freedom and human rights as a line to be upheld by all future Iraqi governments, and ensure self-rule for Kurds.

Major General Hasan al-Naqib, a prominent Iraqi opposition leader, has stated that the new national front was formed by the largest Iraqi concentration outside Iraq. He added that the opposition movement, in closing its ranks, has had the biggest effect in spreading panic within the ranks of the Iraqi regime and has led to new attempts on the life of the Iraqi president.

The Iranian [as received] opposition has set up a large chamber of operations to capitalize on the mounting tension within the ranks of the Iraqi Army, which led to 10,000 soldiers fleeing the Army.

A new list of executions was recently issued for 32 officers, ranging from brigadier general to lieutenant.

## Oil Ministry Announces Oil, Gas Rationing

*NC1910083190 Paris AFP in English 0828 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 19 (AFP)—Iraq will introduce petrol and motor oil rationing from next Tuesday [23 October], the Iraqi Oil Ministry said in a statement released here on Friday.

The ministry called on motorists to contact government offices across the country to receive ration cards.

## Health Ministry Rations 15 Kinds of Medicine

*JN1910110590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] In Baghdad, the Iraqi Health Ministry has decided to suspend the delivery of 15 types of medicine to private pharmacies and to restrict their sale only to hospitals and public pharmacies, with the provision that a card stamped by the medical authorities must be submitted.

The Iraqi health minister denounced the embargo imposed on medicine to his country and held the United States responsible for this shortage.

As for the foreigners in Kuwait, Baghdad authorities have asked them to report to offices that issue residence permits before 15 November; otherwise, they will be liable to legal prosecution and to the definitive cancellation of their residence permits.

## Card System Planned for Dispensing Medicine

*JN1010083990 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Oct 90 p 6*

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that the Health Ministry has directed the health institutions in Baghdad and the union of doctors, dentists, and pharmacologists to adopt a new method for dispensing some medicine for the treatment of chronic diseases including cardiac diseases, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

A Health Ministry source said: The health card system will be adopted for those suffering chronic diseases to dispense the medicine specified for them according to the card, which is to be prepared by the responsible doctor in the private sector. The doctor will present a report on the patient's health condition written on the approved prescription in which he will mention the proposed treatment, the amount of medicine, and the period of use.

The patient will then be directed by his doctor to check with the following Baghdad hospitals: al-Karamah, al-Yarmuk, al-Mansur, al-Dawrah, al-Nur, al-Kindi, al-Nu'man, and Saddam, as well as al-Qadisiyah hospital in the new Baghdad sector.

## Unfreezing of Funds Earmarked for Food Urged

*JN1210182190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—Acting Finance Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has stated the following to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

Several states have frozen Iraqi assets that were primarily earmarked in the Iraqi Government's budget for importing medicines, medical requirements, baby milk, and necessary foodstuffs.

This inhuman act might endanger the lives of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children and expose them to death by depriving them of their natural right to milk. In addition, this act, which contravenes the most basic universal ethics and human rights will also endanger the lives of sick Iraqis, because they are being denied access to medicine and medical treatment. Furthermore, there are no principles or laws in the world that sanction a person to deprive his fellow brothers of the basic food of survival.

The freezing of these assets is an irresponsible act against Iraq and its people. We appeal to all states and agencies that hold sequestered funds earmarked for this purpose to end the sequestration of them and to assist in applying these funds to purchase milk, medicine, and food for the Iraqi people. By doing so, they would be acting in accordance with the principles of human rights and the values of civilized nations that we all seek.

## Health Minister Appeals to WHO on Blockade

*JN1010105590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 10 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Oct (INA)—Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id has stressed that the economic blockade imposed by imperialism and Zionism against great Iraq constitutes an action unprecedented in ancient and modern history.

In a message to WHO Director General Hiroshi Nakajima, he said that stopping the imports of foodstuffs, medicine, medical supplies, and baby milk is a violation of all international norms and the WHO plans and programs to realize good health for all by the year 2000.

The minister called on the organization to play a positive and effective role in this regard, especially as Iraq had in the past dealt seriously with the emergency situations of some countries, and in a manner that served peoples' health and safety.

## Children Deliver Protests to U.S., UK Embassies

*JN1310175390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 90*

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Iraqi children have handed over to the U.S. and UK Embassies protest notes concerning the economic blockade of the people and children of Iraq imposed by the United States and its allies.

To mark Iraqi Children's Day, the note handed over by thousands of children voiced their vigorous condemnation of the inhuman embargo, which is in breach of international rules and conventions.

The notes emphasized that withholding food, medicine, and vaccines from children is in clear violation of the provisions of the International Declaration on Children's Rights, endorsed by the United Nations in 1959, and the International Declaration on Human Rights, and is in breach of the rights of children endorsed by the international community less than one year ago. [passage omitted]

The notes added: As we refute your protestations of concern to enforce indivisible international legitimacy, we urge you to reverse this uncivilized approach, end the siege against the children of Iraq—which is designed to starve them and put their health and lives in danger—pull your forces and fleets out of our Arab land and waters, and leave the region. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the children burned American and British flags and pictures of Bush and Thatcher in a show of anger over their inhuman policies that contravene temporal and religious laws. [passage omitted]

## Official Comments on New Egg, Poultry Prices

*JN1010085290 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Oct 90 p 7*

[Text] Responding to a question posed by AL-JUMHURIYAH to a responsible source at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on the new selling prices of eggs and chicken meat, the source said: As a result of the known economic embargo on Iraq, the import of poultry feed which used to be distributed among the owners of poultry farms at a government subsidized price has stopped. This means that the owners of these farms are now obliged to secure feed from the local market at the available unsubsidized prices.

He added: Therefore, the previous selling prices of eggs and chicken meat are no longer compatible with the real manufacturing cost. This necessitated setting new prices in order to encourage the continuation of poultry projects and ensure the people's food requirements.

## Tires Being Renovated To Compensate for Blockade

*JN0610183190 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 2 Oct 90 p 7*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Importing tires has become very difficult in view of the economic blockade. Therefore, workers at the General Corporation for Rubber

Industries-Diwaniyah Tires have taken the initiative to find a new way to retread old tractor and agricultural machine tires to render them suitable for use again.

Riyad 'Abd-al-Amir, the corporation's technical manager, said: Due to Iraq's current conditions resulting from the economic blockade, and because there is an increasing demand to prolong the working life of agricultural machines and big vehicles, workers at the corporation took the initiative, just after 2 August when Kuwait was returned to its motherland, to render success to a new method to retread old tires. [passage omitted]

## Vegetable Production Increases Over Last Year

*JN1810205190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—The production of vegetables increased in Iraq this year by 1 million tonnes more than last year, to reach 2.5 million tonnes. Agriculture experts at the Ministry of Planning believe that the reason for this increase in the production of vegetables in Iraq stems from the increased use of technology and agricultural improvements.

The Department for Agricultural Planning at the Ministry of Planning told Iraqi National Agency that other factors that helped increase the production were the use of protected agriculture; building green and glass houses to produce vegetables out of season; use of chemical and organic fertilizers, improved seeds and pesticides; and improving local markets.

The department said that the production of vegetables forms 36 percent of the total agricultural produce, and areas planted with vegetables increased from three to eight percent of the total cultivated area of other produce.

Production has achieved average increases of 4 percent and the value of vegetable produce has reached 116 million dinars.

## Maltese Parliamentarian Arrives on Visit 14 Oct

*JN1510061890 Baghdad INA in English 1145 GMT 14 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 14, INA—Mr. Dennis Samat [name as received] member of the Maltese Parliament and secretary general of the Peace Organization of European and Mediterranean Peoples arrived in Baghdad last night on a few day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA correspondent, Mr. Samat said that he will hold talks with Iraqi officials concerning current events in the Gulf region stressing the importance of a comprehensive and permanent peace realized in the region.

## Officials Meet With Italian, Soviet 'Volunteers'

### Salman Confers With Italians

*JN1210213790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—'Adnan Dawud Salman, chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, today received the Italian volunteers' delegation led by Alberto Levati [name as received], member of a number of peace organizations in Italy.

During the meeting, 'Adnan Dawud Salman briefed the delegation on the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation, and the U.S. attempts to impose hegemony over the Arab region and to plunder its wealth after deploying its forces on holy Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

Alberto Levati expressed the Italian peace organizations' desire to form groups to be stationed in Iraq to avert a devastating war that might be carried out by the United States. He pointed out that this measure is to express solidarity with the Iraqi people and to reinforce security and stability in the region.

### Salman Receives Soviets

*JN1210201190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 12 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—'Adnan Dawud Salman, chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization in Iraq, received today a delegation of Soviet volunteers led by Valeriy Gantshev, chairman of the Russian liaison society with Soviet citizens abroad [name and title as received].

During the meeting, the chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, pointed out that America seeks to impose its hegemony over the world and to control the keys to scientific and economic progress. He said this means that peace-loving countries must oppose this aggressive policy. He stressed that Iraq wants real and comprehensive peace, whose principles have been made clear in President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

Gantshev described President Saddam Husayn's initiative as the best practical formula to resolve all the region's problems, to achieve peace, and to avert the specter of a devastating war. He expressed admiration for the Iraqis' high morale, normal life at all facilities, and their contempt for the blockade and foreign presence in the region.

### Salih Sees Both Groups

*JN1310185190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 90*

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with the Soviet volunteers' delegation led by Valeriy

Gantshev, chairman of the Russian liaison society with Soviet citizens abroad [name and title as heard].

The National Assembly speaker stressed Iraq's desire to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region and the world on the basis of its firm belief in the principles of human rights. He pointed out that leader President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative, announced by his excellency on 12 August, and the resulting regional and international positions, show every fair government and nation in the world that the United States, its allies, and colonialist circles are trying to meddle with world security and peace to achieve their narrow interests, while ignoring nations' legitimate rights and their need for security and stability in their lands.

Valeriy Gantshev expressed the Soviet people's sympathy for the Iraqi people's national aspirations as well as the Soviet people's support for the Iraqi people, who are seeking an honorable life and who reject all forms of political and economic hegemony.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih also met with the Italian volunteers' delegation led by Alberto Levati [name as heard], member of the Italian disarmament organization.

The National Assembly speaker explained to the visiting delegation that Iraq rejects all forms of hegemony and domination, which the colonialist circles led by the United States are trying to impose on Iraq and the Arab nation. This, he added, is being confronted with a new militant struggle embodied in the Iraqi people's steadfastness and patience in the face of the current blockade, which is aimed against the Iraqi people and their future generations. He said that the Iraqi people are peace loving, as proved by their genuine history and noble civilization and that they are completely determined to follow the path opened by leader President Saddam Husayn's historic 12 August initiative, which gives us complete confidence that lasting peace is coming, as we and the other good and friendly nations have a sincere desire for peace.

Levati said that nations are cooperating and that their real aspirations conflict with the logic of the arm dealers, who are trying to sell their goods at the expense of nations' lives and progress and that peace-seeking Italian people understand the Iraqi people's national position and their rejection of attempts to starve them and the threats to use military forces, which are currently besieging Iraq and which should leave the region. He stressed the need not to use any military force so as to avoid a destructive war. The head and the members of the delegation expressed their great appreciation for Iraq's peace initiative, the Iraqi people's determination to build their homeland, and Iraq's indifference to the foreign forces' presence in the region.

## Jasim Meets Soviets

*JN1310214390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2040 GMT 13 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and official in charge of the Command's Foreign Relations Bureau, has met with the delegation of Soviet volunteers headed by Valeriy Gantshev, chairman of the Russian society for liaison with Soviet citizens abroad [name and title as received].

Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim stressed that the U.S. presence in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] is primarily aimed at controlling Arab oil and the region's affairs and resources after the cold war has been settled. He pointed out that Europe, Japan, the Eastern [Bloc] countries, and even the Soviet Union will be harmed as a result of U.S. policy in the region.

The party Regional Command member stressed that, if it gets involved in a war against Iraq, the United States will lose, because we are right and we will fight in defense of our land and sacred places, and with great ability to stand fast that takes its strength from the people and their high morale and the support of the Arab and Muslim peoples and all good and honorable people in the world.

The official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau reviewed the links in the conspiracy that the United States and its allies are leading to stop Iraq's development and its civilization's renaissance in various fields. He said the United States has instigated the agent rulers in the region to conspire against Iraq after all of the plots it had planned were foiled in face of the Iraqis' strength and determination.

Valeriy Gantshev denounced the repressive measures imposed against Iraq in the economic blockade. He pointed out that these measures are inhumane and do not serve the peace process in the region.

## National Front Meets To Discuss Defense

*JN1210144390 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 12 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct INA—The general secretariat of the Progressive Patriotic and Nationalist Front today has held a meeting under chairmanship of Comrade Hasan 'Ali, member of the regional leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, the secretary-general of the front to discuss its tasks in the current stage and national role in mobilisation of energies and potentials in defence of Iraq.

Comrade Hasan 'Ali confirmed the absolute confidence of our people in the victory which proceeds from its faith in justice of its cause and the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn that achieved for Iraq its great renaissance and revived its glorious civilisation.

He has also referred to the significance of mobilizing all efforts in the trench of the big confrontation with the hostile scheme led by the American Administration and its allies in the area.

The front's secretary-general has made it clear that the historic initiative announced by President Saddam Husayn on August 12 is representing a comprehensive plan for peace to solve all problems of the area, mainly the Palestinian issue, confirming that this will necessitate from the Arab and international community the escalation of struggle to expel the foreign invading forces from the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and lifting their injust economic blockade against Iraq and open the opportunity for solving the problems with peace ways in the manner ridding the area of the dangers of comprehensive destructive war.

## Kuwaitis Accused of Misappropriating Bank Funds

*JN1210212290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 12 Oct 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—It has been revealed here that members of the defunct ruling family and some influential people in Kuwait have seized the assets of depositors in banks in the form of loans and transferred them abroad to invest for their own benefit.

An official report here today said that the eight commercial banks in Kuwait were all suffering losses as a result of the huge credit facilities granted to the ruling clique and the members of the boards of directors of these banks, in addition to the fact that these people invested these credits outside Kuwait, and have delayed paying back loans and obligations to banks inside Kuwait.

The report said that, after the return of the origin to the branch [Kuwait to Iraq], depositors demanded the retrieval of their deposits in the commercial banks that invested these deposits for members of the ruling family, and influential parties that are protected by this family, and transferred these deposits outside Kuwait.

The report stated that deposits of the private sector in commercial banks totaled $17 billion, $16.7 billion of which was granted as credit facilities to the private sector, and specifically to the ruling family and their influential entourage. Most of those who received these credit facilities are currently outside the country, the report added.

The report went on to say that these banks invested the remainder of their assets outside Kuwait. It said that the total of these investments numbered $14.6 billion, all of which have been frozen by the industrial nations. As for the foreign currency held by these banks, it does not exceed $7 billion.

According to the report, the freezing decision obstructed the ability of these banks to move these funds to meet their obligations to depositors, citizens residing in the Governorate of Kuwait, Arabs, and foreigners, most of whom have families and sons pursuing studies abroad at their own expense. This measure has caused these people formidable problems and difficulties regarding their livelihood.

The report added that this situation prompted the government to lend these banks large amounts of money, exceeding 100 million dinars, to enable them to meet the citizens' livelihood requirements and enhance economic efforts in the Governorate of Kuwait, particularly considering that all the funds of the residents of the governorate are being deposited abroad.

## Salman Appointed Deputy Head of President's Office

*JN1410134190 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Oct 90*

[Text] 'Adnan Dawud Salman was sworn in before leader President Saddam Husayn this evening on the occasion of assuming his new post as deputy head of the Presidential Office. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Ahmad Husayn, head of the Presidential Office.

## Shamir Says Restrictions Not Accepted 'Forever'

*TA1810115290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Report by 'Ofra Nehmad]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The prime minister took time off from touring the employment fair at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, which was attended by many new immigrants from the USSR, to answer reporters' questions. Referring to relations between us and the United States, he said that it could not really be called a misunderstanding:

[Begin Shamir recording] I do not think that in this case a misunderstanding was created. The misunderstanding is more one of an impression created by various inaccurate reports in the media. In fact, the foreign minister's stand was understandable and logical. We live within a certain reality, and part of that reality is that the U.S. Administration presented certain conditions many years ago concerning the ways its aid could be used. It has the right to present conditions on the spending of funds it allocates. That is all. If somebody accepts those conditions, it does not mean he agrees to all those restrictions forever and under any condition. [end recording]

The prime minister added that he has not yet received an answer to the letter he sent to Bush. He also said that he is not worried that the government will be toppled next Monday by the motion of no confidence in the Knesset. He believes SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will support the government without any reference to the Der'i affair. [passage omitted]

## Shamir Calls on U.S. To End 'Sorry Episode'

*TA1810135690 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] The main element fighting against evil in our region was mistaken in attempting to buy unity at the price of Israel's humiliation. This statement was made today by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir with regard to the U.S. position on the dispatch of the UN delegation to Israel.

Israel cannot be the one to agree to a ruling obliging it to forego sovereignty over Jerusalem, and this was the essence of the UN delegation's mission, Yitzhaq Shamir said, adding that Israel calls on its friend to end this sorry episode and refocus its attention on the major problem in the region—the Kuwaiti crisis. This was reported by our correspondent 'Idan Miller.

### Does Not Want Quarrel With U.S.

*TA1810182790 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Oct 90*

["Excerpt" of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's speech before the Farmers Association in Ramat Gan on 18 October—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] And now hostile elements have succeeded—by means of inciting virulent hatred and the fanatical zealotry we are very familiar with—in insinuating the Israeli-Arab conflict into the chain of developments in the region. Suddenly there was an attempt to transform the anti-Iraqi coalition into an anti-Israeli coalition, whose aim was to expropriate the Jewish people's sovereignty over the holy city of Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, and harm the apple of the eye of the Jewish-Israeli ethos. The major and principal element in the camp fighting against evil made a serious mistake in attempting to purchase its camp's unity at the price of humiliating and endangering the State of Israel.

We do not desire any quarrel with the United States. We are not eager for political conflicts of any kind. There is no one in Israel who would wish to cut the chains of the pact and friendship tying the greatest democracy in the world with the only democracy in the Middle East. Israel, however, cannot on any account be the one to sign, with its own hands, a sentence giving away its sovereignty over Jerusalem.

The phrasing of the recent Security Council resolution, which ignored the attack on the mass of Jewish worshipers who convened to celebrate their holiday on the Temple Mount near the Western Wall, the remnant of our temple—this wording shocked every Jewish heart and deeply offended our feelings. I would like to hope that this was a mistake made by the world's high and mighty as a result of the regrettable and unnecessary bloodshed that someone managed to politically profit from.

## Sharon Says U.S. Must Attack Iraq

*TA1810212190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has said in Paris that the United States must attack Iraq and end the danger it presents. Sharon believes that if the Americans and their allies leave the region and Saddam remains, with the arms caches and the ability to manufacture a nuclear bomb, the danger to the whole world and to Israel will increase. In fact, said Sharon, it would have been better for the Americans not to come to the region at all than for them to leave without striking at Saddam.

Sharon added that the establishment of a Palestinian state in Jordan will be good for Israel.

He was interviewed on a Jewish radio station in Paris.

Sharon came to Paris for two days to promote the sale of his memoirs. His book has appeared in Paris just recently.

## Pazner Terms Columnists' Report Nonsense

*TA1410063390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Oct 90*

[Excerpts] THE WASHINGTON POST reporters Evans and Novak [titles as heard] contend that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has relayed a message to the United

States that says that Israel will attack Iraq before the end of this year, if the United States does not do so. [passage omitted]

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, terms the Evans and Novak report utter nonsense.

## Levi Praises Baker Remarks to Senate

*TA1810121190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Jerusalem today responded with satisfaction to Secretary of State Baker's remarks in the Senate. Following the latest sharp exchange between Washington and Jerusalem, officials here marked with greater satisfaction that in the U.S. view, Jerusalem must remain united. Baker recalled that it has been U.S. policy for dozens of years that Jerusalem would never be divided again. The secretary of state's remarks were viewed here as relatively moderate, although he also said that Jerusalem's status will be determined in negotiations. He added that it is no secret that the United States believes that the settlements are a move in the wrong direction and are an obstacle to peace. The secretary of state added, however, with a reassuring tone: We will overcome those differences. We should not argue too much over such sensitive and complex issues.

Foreign Minister David Levi said today that Baker's remarks put things straight and reduced the tension between the United States and Israel.

Referring to the UN delegation, Minister Levi said that had the mission come on behalf of Perez de Cuellar and not on the basis of the mandate which set it up—that is: not on the basis of the Security Council resolution that called Jerusalem occupied territory—Israel would have considered cooperating with it. We have no opposition in principle to UN delegations, Foreign Minister David Levi said.

## UK's Hurd Interviewed on Middle East Issues

*TA1910085990 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Oct 90 p 5*

[Interview with Douglas Hurd, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, by David Makovsky and Matthew Seriphs, on 17 October; place not given]

[Text] Question: Before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Israel charged that the world did not adequately appreciate what a tough neighborhood the Middle East is, but rather had compacted the entire region into the Palestinian issue. In the light of the invasion of Kuwait, do you think Israeli arguments sound more convincing now? As someone who has dealt extensively with Arab states, how prepared do you think these Arab states will be to negotiate with Israel when the Persian Gulf crisis ends?

Answer: I don't think that many of us had much illusions about Saddam Husayn. It is nonsense to suggest that we've been arming him; we've been applying an arms embargo for a long time and I don't really have any illusions. I don't think the Israelis would feel particularly secure with Khomeyni's regime sitting in Baghdad... But now, the danger is the Saddam Husayn one, and of course the Middle East is a tough place.

Q: Are Arab states prepared to make peace with Israel?

A: I don't think there's any wish, which is nourished either secretly or publicly, to crush Israel. But equally, I don't think anybody is going to negotiate a separate treaty with Israel, without provisions for Palestinians. I do think it's realistic (to separate peace between Israel and Arab states). [sentence as published] The idea, the whole idea, which they certainly had, of crushing Israel, is gone.

Q: Including al-Asad of Syria?

A: I think so. Of course, we don't have dealings with al-Asad (Britain severed ties with Syria in 1986 after an aborted Syrian- backed bombing at London's Heathrow Airport). But here, again, there need to be provisions for the Palestinians.

Question: How do you reconcile these terms? Israel has the right to security, and at the same time there is British support for Palestinian self-determination—which doesn't necessarily mean a state—but you're not opposed to it. How do you interpret the term "self-determination?" In the Wilsonian sense, doesn't that imply some form of a state?

A: The archives of the Israeli Foreign Office are bulging with plans on this very point. Now, I don't want to start speculating as to how that's achieved. Because we're not there yet; principles have not yet even been accepted for a Security Council meeting... When the times comes, I don't think there'll be any shortage of ideas...You've got two peoples which are crowded into a very narrow land; one which has been attacked several times quite understandably anxious, permanently anxious, about their security; and the other which is denied political rights. So before you get down to the nitty-gritty, you have to have a dialog. None of this is actual at all, we're not saying this is going to happen tomorrow. What we *are* saying, what we need to say *now*, is that we have to set down some markers. Saddam Husayn actually kicked the Palestinian cause in the teeth. By their support, the PLO has made a mistake.

Q: Is there linkage?

A: I think what Mitterrand said (during his UN speech last month implying linkage) was awkward and obscure. What Bush said (at the UN) was very much in line. What he said was not "linkage," but "one-two"—or sequence.

Q: You said that Saddam Husayn has kicked the Palestinians in the teeth. How badly do you think 'Arafat has been wounded, and do you think he can recover?

A: He's shown considerable powers of survival in the past. I think they made two serious mistakes. The first was the failure to condemn the raid on the beach. The much more serious mistake is his finding excuses for Saddam Husayn. This is crazy, because his main thesis is against Israeli occupation—and here he goes finding excuses for Iraqi occupation of Kuwait: it makes no sense. Now, whether he will recover I don't know, but obviously he continues to enjoy a lot of support. Though I think, from what I heard, the intifada is fragmenting his support. Now you have more extreme groups which are beginning to assert themselves. So the PLO has suffered a setback, but equally, they are still significant.

Q: What about British dialog with the PLO? After the Abu-al- 'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] attack and 'Arafat's refusal to condemn it, the U.S. severed its dialog with the PLO. Do you think it's wise for Britain to maintain a similar dialog under these circumstances?

A: I've never met Mr. 'Arafat. It's been useful to have contact in Tunis. And we've done this several times to steer them away from more extreme positions. It hasn't been wholly successful, but it's been useful.

Q: Did you notice the demonstrators outside with Irish flags, equating the IRA with the PLO? Do you see such an analogy? If you talk to the PLO, why not talk to the IRA?

A: You go and cover the next (British) elections. In Northern Ireland everybody has a vote, but take me to the West Bank, and show me where they vote. Sinn Fein, which supports the IRA, puts up candidates and gets 11 percent of the votes. In the ballot box there's a democracy. They're beaten, and they can't live with it. Precisely *because* it's democratic and everyone has a vote, it's a completely different situation. You've got to marginalize the violent people—you've got to resist terrorism. That's right—if people are terrorists you have to push them to the margins. If they're terrorists, then don't deal with them. It's very difficult to do that when people don't have any political rights and no particular prospects for the future. After spending a few hours with Arabs in different institutions, it's very depressing.

Q: Therefore, you're saying that the Israel government's plan for West Bank elections is promising?

A: I think it depends where you start to tackle it. Do you start with how much autonomy the Israel government is willing to accord or is it compatible with peace treaties with other Arab states? But tackle it from the other point of view: how do you reconcile Israeli security (with Palestinian self-determination)? It's no use to talk about rights in a vacuum, that's why we don't say "self- determination, full stop," but we say self-determination which is the outcome of negotiations. That's the right approach. But for the Israel government to do it on a basis of "trickle down," I don't think that's likely to work.

Q: What do you mean by "trickle down" in this context?

A: You know, the Israeli government decides to what degree there should be autonomy, as in Camp David. This part of the peace has not worked.

Q: Are you worried about the stability of Jordan? Did you discuss it with Israeli leaders? The king's position seems more precarious now. Might we be facing a different sort of Jordan?

A: It's highly desirable that the king should continue to be the king of Jordan. Any other regime could be disastrous.

Q: Do you feel the Israelis share that view?

A: My view is that the Israelis are quite realistic on this issue.

Q: Including Mr. Shamir?

A: Yes.

Q: The Israelis here were surprised by your restraint on the question of human rights in the territories, as you've been a vocal critic of these policies in the past. Do you see the Israel government in a different way from how you viewed it from London?

A: I thought hard about this. It may be wrong, but it seems to me that it would be better to have the criticisms and suggestions out in public in advance. What would *not* have been a good idea would be to come here having said nothing, and then start saying things which people here would find objectionable. I wouldn't have got on to the kinds of talks that I had yesterday (Tuesday), which really were of high quality. So I thought it was better to hold back, because this is a volatile country. On that account, to make the same points which I did, but not having to repeat them all in public, but to go over the ground quietly, like I did, and all of it went well—I was pleased. I still think that was the right tactic. Disappointed that the other objective, which is to have some sort of discussion with the Palestinians, fell away. But yesterday's discussions (with Israeli officials) were of high quality, and something on which we can build. Not in the sense that we agree with each other—because that is a long way off—but just the habit of discussing things—discussing differences without quarrelling—that's crucial to what diplomacy is about. It's what I hope we've got...Israel is a key player. We have to understand her anxieties which are affected by the Likud government policies. But equally, they've got to be in tune to some extent with the rest of the world. They really have to.

Q: Could you appraise us of the situation regarding a British Council Center to be opened in Gaza. I believe there was some question that this might ruffle relations between the two countries. And why did you cancel your visit to Gaza?

A: There was a trial today of a dissident (the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement spiritual leader, Shaykh Ahmad Yasin)—and I was advised on security grounds it was not sensible to go to Gaza. The Gaza center is being discussed with officials today. The last thing I would want, would be to be the cause of some new violence, or be the focus of some incident which would involve stone-throwing. That wouldn't be a good contribution.

Q: How do you view Jewish residency in East Jerusalem?

A: East Jerusalem—I see you're roasting your minister! (Foreign Minister David Levi, on his letter to Secretary of State James Baker.) Our line is very clear. We've made clear to Mr. Gorbachev and the Soviet government that he must let the Jews go. We do say, and the prime minister (Margaret Thatcher) has been very clear on this, that they should not be encouraged to settle in the occupied territories and of course we, like the Americans, include East Jerusalem in that.

Q: Since the Lebanon War in 1982, Britain has imposed two forms of bans—one on the sale of North Sea oil to Israel, and the other on the sale of weapons. Will these bans be lifted?

A: The oil was raised (during talks here). I don't think it's particularly actual—I don't think you really want our oil. We sell oil to a list of countries of which Israel is not one. I said I would look into it, but don't write it up as some great concession because I don't know what the outcome will be.

Q: And weapons?

A: I don't think that that is practical.

Q: Is it because of your ties with Arab states?

A: I just don't think Israel lacks for weapons. It's basically a political issue.

## Hurd Notes 'Shrewd' Israeli Position on Gulf

*TA1810115790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens believes that the widespread support for Saddam Husayn among the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has harmed progress towards the dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians. Arens made this statement to Britain's foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd. It was Hurd's last official meeting in Israel before flying off to Athens. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 18 October, in a report on the Arens-Hurd meeting, adds that Arens told Hurd that "the Israeli Government's initiative for elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is far-reaching, and therefore we must make an effort to promote this initiative."]

Emerging from his talk with Defense Minister Arens, the foreign secretary had this to say:

[Begin Hurd recording] We talked about the things you'd expect us to talk about: mainly about the security situation in the area, the Gulf crisis, Saddam Husayn, his possible plans of movement—that was the core of the discussion. We identified in our view about the Gulf crisis; we were very similar. We have always been understanding of the Israeli position. I think the Israeli position on the Gulf crisis has been a very shrewd one, and I quite understand the anxieties which it's caused. [end recording]

## Envoy Cites Efforts To 'Satisfy' U.S.

*TA1910092390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Telephone interview with Zalman Shoval, ambassador to the United States, in Washington by Mikha Friedman and No'omi Qeren—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] Your main task at the moment is to find a miracle formula capable of changing the complex atmosphere in Israeli-U.S. relations. Do you have such a formula? One that would satisfy the wolf and while leaving the lamb unscathed? We are, of course, referring to the Temple Mount affair.

[Shoval] We would first of all need to decide who is the wolf and who the lamb.

[Friedman] Is this not sufficiently clear?

[Shoval] I do not know. In any event, as you understand, neither we nor the Americans planned the complicated situation of the past week or two. It resulted from the Temple Mount incident, which may or may not have been planned by Palestinian elements; I do not know. We are waiting for the findings of our inquiry commission.

In any event, this affair just landed on us, and the State of Israel believes the United States did not act appropriately on two levels: 1) The severe criticism it leveled against Israel, at least in the first stages. Recently, it has somewhat tempered its attitude, thank God. 2) In the approach it took at the Security Council. I think the Israeli stand there was clear, and I believe it is now beginning to be clear to the U.S. policymakers as well. An article published today in the prestigious WASHINGTON POST says that one could say the Israeli stand is not unjustifiable.

[Qeren] Excuse me, Mr. Shoval. I heard Baker saying that nothing can justify the killing of Arabs on the Temple Mount.

[Shoval] True, true. Mr. Baker is now saying that the stance the United States had taken is not the result of its concern for the Arab-American coalition, but of pertinent factors, such as the fact that people were killed, and so on. We, Israel, naturally regret the killings, too, but we also ask: Why is it that no such reaction is evident when hundreds or dozens of people are killed daily in various countries in the world? These events can be found on the back pages of newspapers, and they certainly do not find their way to the Security Council.

[Friedman] Mr. Shoval, we would like to address a practical aspect of the affair, which is Israel's refusal to accept the UN secretary general's delegation. On the other hand, we heard that an envoy on behalf of the UN secretary general may now be welcomed and even given the Zamir commission report, due to be published early next week. He may even be allowed to meet with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. Are you familiar with this emerging line of compromise?

[Shoval] I am naturally familiar with anything happening in this sphere, and I take a certain part in the events. Things are not, however, precisely as you described them. The State of Israel said and still says: We are not ready to accept either an envoy or a delegation. The State of Israel has appointed an independent inquiry, or rather, a probe commission of its own. When that commission submits its findings, we will be glad to submit them to the United Nations and to any other interested party. We will not, however, be ready to accept any outside body probing the circumstances of an event in sovereign Jerusalem. In this sense, the Israeli stand has not and, I believe, will not change.

We are, however, looking for ways—one of the reasons is our desire to make the situation easier for the Americans—to satisfy the U.S. demands, which led it to that vote at the Security Council, through the conclusions of the Zamir commission, when they are submitted.

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Mr. Shoval.

## More on Arens, Shomron Remarks on Lebanon

*TA1810120690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Oct 90 p 10*

[Report by Asher Wallfish and Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens and IDF [Israel Defence Forces] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron stressed yesterday that Syria's takeover of General Michel 'Awn's Christian zone in Beirut last weekend did not indicate, nor was it a cause for, any change in Israel's policy over Lebanon.

Arens, replying to urgent motions for the agenda at the Knesset, said that the Syrian move did not thus far endanger Israel's vital interests, the most important of which is security along the northern border.

"Apart from the disappointment within the security zone among General 'Awn's supporters, the latest developments do not appear to have any immediate effect on the security zone," he said.

"But," Arens warned, "we must allow for dangers which might emerge in the future. We must be ready for the possibility that hostile elements might try and step up their terror operations against the security zone including the Jazzin area controlled by SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander General Antoine Lahd, or against Israel."

Shomron, speaking to defense reporters in Qatzrin, conceded that Israel's Lebanese allies were "somewhat fearful" of a possible change in Israeli policy. "We explain to them there will be no change," he said.

The allies had expressed concern that Israel had let Syria breach with impunity the "red line" it had set. They had believed Israel would not let the Syrian Air Force operate over Beirut, but last Saturday, when the Syrians bombed there to bring about 'Awn's downfall, Israeli planes remained at their bases.

'Awn was no great friend of Israel's, Shomron said. "He was closer to the Iraqis than he was to us."

Shomron echoed Arens in saying that Israel's concern, as long as terrorists are in Lebanon, is directed at the security zone, "and all that is connected to it." All of southern Lebanon, as far as we are concerned, is a "vital area," he said.

The Jazzin area "is different than Beirut," Shomron said, and Israel has a special interest in it.

Jazzin has not been part of the Israeli-declared security, but General Lahd considers it part of "his" turf, has sent troops there, and Israel officers occasionally visit the area.

Regarding the West Bank and Gaza, and the leaflets urging residents to take up arms, Shomron said cross border attacks were now more likely. Nevertheless, the IDF has been thinking for years that the Palestinians may take up arms, and therefore has made some contingency plans.

He declined to go into detail, but told THE JERUSALEM POST they were not patterned after the measures the IDF took in Lebanon. (In Lebanon, Israelis travel in convoys wearing flak jackets and helmets, with guns ready to shoot.)

## Paper Alleges Egyptian Plan To Bypass PLO

*TA1710064490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 17 Oct 90 pp 1, 14*

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] While the dispute over the UN delegation to Israel is worsening, a new political development being discussed in Cairo became known last night.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned that Egypt plans a new initiative for a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians, aimed at bypassing the PLO.

Israel was informed of the Egyptian plan by Frank Wisner, the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, who conferred with an Israeli diplomat in the Egyptian capital. The American diplomat disclosed that Egypt plans to ask Israel to permit a delegation of Palestinian public figures from the territories to leave for Cairo for political talks.

The person behind the initiative is Dr. Usamah al-Baz, adviser and close aide to President Mubarak. The U.S. ambassador revealed that Dr. al-Baz coordinated the planned moves in talks he held in Damascus. In its new initiative, Egypt plans to signal that it no longer views PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as the sole representative of the Palestinians. The background to the new move is Egypt's anger over PLO support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

According to the classified report of the conversation between the U.S. ambassador and the Israeli diplomat which has reached Jerusalem, Egypt also plans to set up a new newspaper in the territories that would represent different positions from those of the PLO. Cairo plans to invite Palestinian journalists from the territories to Egypt to convince them to join the new paper.

Jerusalem is now studying the Egyptian proposals, and political sources told our correspondent that Israel would respond favorably to any initiative that bypasses the PLO.

Nevertheless, Dr. Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, told Smadar Peri, our special correspondent in Cairo: "We plan to exploit Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait as a precedent to secure an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the territories." He said there would not be a link between a withdrawal from Kuwait and one from the territories. "Although an evacuation of Kuwait and an evacuation of the territories are based on identical criteria, creating a linkage between them could harm the operation and permit Iraq to wriggle out of it or to impose conditions."

Referring to the events on the Temple Mount, the Egyptian minister said: "The murder of 21 Palestinians in Jerusalem was a present to Saddam Husayn, and the Israeli Government announcement that it would not receive the UN delegation was another present to him. The Israeli refusal calls for a renewed debate in the United Nations, which would divert attention from the urgent problem—Iraq," Ghali said. [passage omitted]

## Soldiers Fire on Refugees in Rafah Camp

*TA1810195490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The clash took place in the Shabura neighborhood of the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Today's violence was the most serious since the events last week at the Temple Mount, and the violence may signify the real mood among residents of the territories. It occurred when soldiers were placing an army lookout post on the roof of an abandoned house in Shabura. The final impetus for the backlash from the residents apparently came when soldiers began placing an Israeli flag on the roof. Every lookout post has a flag and there was nothing new in placing this one. Residents began hurling a massive hail of stones at the soldiers, army sources say, without provocation. The soldiers responded with selective fire of plastic bullets and other methods used for dispersing demonstrations. No live ammunition was used.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] says 30 people were injured, most lightly, and that about half have already been released from hospital. Arab sources say the number of injured was higher. An investigation by the regional commander determined that the soldiers acted according to plans set in advance and continued with their project after the violence broke out. Arab residents say the soldiers were forced to leave because of the stones.

The clash was the only serious event in the Gaza Strip or in Judaea and Samaria today, but Army sources fear the quiet could be deceptive and that further reaction to events at the Temple Mount could be forthcoming.

## Iraq's Ramadan Discusses Gulf During Stopover

*JN1810185190 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of Iraq's Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, stopped over in Jordan today on his way to Baghdad from the Sudan. He conferred with Prime Minister Mudar Badran on the latest Arab developments, with special emphasis on the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Ramadan gave a predeparture statement to our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin recording] [Dhiyab] Mr. First Deputy Prime Minister, judging from current Iraqi, Arab, and international efforts, how do you rate the chances for a peaceful resolution to the Gulf crisis?

[Ramadan] Serious efforts are under way to find a peaceful way out. This applies as much to the European arena as it does to the Arab front. We hope things will clear up in the coming days. Intensified contacts will take place to overcome obstacles and steer clear of the dangerous route onto which Zionism has been goading the Arab nation.

[Dhiyab] What about your tour of the Arab Maghreb?

[Ramadan] It is important that we meet with brothers in the Arab Maghreb and the Sudan to discuss the latest developments in the Gulf crisis, especially since, as we know, the governments of the Arab Maghreb have been dealing with this issue with action, interaction, and movement. The cohesion between eastern and western wings of the Arab world during the Gulf problem has not been seen for many years. Further contacts and dialogue are needed. I think we have achieved something—whether it be learning how each other thinks or concerning efforts to coordinate our moves in the future. [end recording]

Mr. Ramadan left Amman this afternoon. Prime Minister Mudar Badran saw him off, together with Mr. Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Mr. Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, information minister and acting foreign minister; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

## Speaker Leaves for Parliamentary Meeting in Iraq

*JN1810134990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Sulayman 'Arar, speaker of the House of Representatives, left Amman for Baghdad today heading a Jordanian parliamentary delegation to attend the Arab parliamentary meeting called by the Iraqi National Assembly to discuss the situation in the occupied Arab territory, following the Israeli occupation authorities' grotesque massacre of Palestinians in the courtyard of al-Aqsa Mosque.

## Minister Confers With French Parliamentarians

*JN1810185090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, information minister and acting foreign minister, has said that Jordan supports any international effort for a peaceful resolution to the Gulf crisis. Emerging from a meeting with a French parliamentary delegation today, the minister said France believes the time is right to push the peace process forward, and that the French delegation's visit is one of several tours by French delegations to Arab countries to probe a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Speaking to our correspondent, the minister added:

[Begin recording] ['Izz-al-Din] This visit primarily seeks to advance peace options to the Gulf crisis. France believes the time is right to push the peace process forward and to put President Mitterand's initiative on center stage. We listened to details of the initiative and the French desire to stave off war. This, of course, is something we welcome. We wish to pursue this line and promote any international efforts toward a peaceful option as the only game in town.

[Correspondent] Have the French parliamentarians addressed the latest UN Security Council resolution and Israel's refusal to see the committee?

['Izz-al-Din] The French delegation did raise the point. France wants to see the resolution implemented. The delegation was not specific as to the method of implementation, but we clearly understand that they will not spare themselves toward its enforcement. [end recording]

## UN Envoy Cites Economic Losses From Crisis

*JN1910134790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] UN Secretary General Envoy Jean Ripert has said Jordan will lose about $1 billion before the end of the current year. Its losses by 1991 could reach $4 billion due to the Gulf crisis and the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations on Iraq.

Jean Ripert, who was sent to Amman by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said estimates of Jordan's losses have increased due to the rise in the price of oil. Perez de Cuellar's envoy said these losses represent 30 percent of the gross national Product of Jordan. They are expected to represent 50 percent if Jordan does not receive sufficient support.

Ripert will submit recommendations to the UN secretary general, who was asked by the UN Security Council to evaluate the economic effects of sanctions on Jordan. Ripert said that although the Council has actually asked countries to urgently provide Jordan with technological, financial, and other forms of help, there have been many pledges but little actual help.

### Editorial Sees Hurd's Remarks 'Direct Insult'

*JN1810114590 Amman THE STAR in English 18-24 Oct 90 p 8*

[Editorial: "Britain's Loss of Integrity"]

[Text] This week's statements by British Foreign Secretary Mr Douglas Hurd in Israel are tantamount to direct insults to Palestinians in particular and Arabs in general. In fact, Mr Hurd's outrageous remarks are more Zionist in essence than the rhetoric uttered by Israeli extremists like Shamir and Levy.

The British official was reported to have told Knesset members that Britain "firmly opposes the idea of a separate state for the Palestinians west of the River Jordan." He also called on Israel to reject Security Council Resolution 672 but to accept to co-operate with the UN fact-finding mission, and encouraged Israel to find Palestinian Arab partners for peace talks other than the PLO since his government was not overly enthusiastic about the PLO. [sentence as published]

The real issue according to Mr Hurd was the Gulf crisis and not "a long run of endless Security Council debates on Arab-Israeli relations." In his opinion such debates "wouldn't suit anybody."

With such pompous language, Mr Hurd sought to ameliorate Israel's discontent over last week's Security Council's resolution which condemned the al-Aqsa massacres. Surprisingly, the reconciliatory tone of Mr Hurd meant little to the Israelis who still refused to change their position from not welcoming the UN commission.

We are extremely angered by Mr Hurd's prejudice and bigotry. Britain, which bequeathed a national home for the Jews in Palestine in 1917 under the infamous Balfour declaration, was now attempting to deny the Palestinian people their inalienable and legitimate right of a state of their own on the little that is left of their homeland. Mr Hurd was so generous in giving away free advice to the Israelis that he revealed that his government was not so happy with the PLO as a suitable representative for the Palestinian people. We are surprised that he did not go as far as suggesting a replacement which White Hall would find suitable.

But we were not surprised to learn the Palestinian figures in the occupied territories have boycotted a prescheduled meeting with Mr Hurd. Our astonishment is caused by the fact that Britain, which has a historical and moral duty to see to it that a Palestinian homeland is born and that Palestinians enjoy their right to self determination, is encouraging the aggressor to reject a Security Council resolution while calling its deliberations on the Arab-Israeli conflict a waste of time.

The fact that Britain is also a permanent member of the Security Council adds to our aggravation.

With such a shameless stand by an important world power, it is no wonder that Israel has been saying no to the United Nations and its allies when it came to respecting international will.

Mr Hurd may think that he had gained few valuable inches with the Israeli establishment by turning his back on the 40-year-old-struggle of the Palestinian people. But the fact of the matter is that the foreign minister has dealt a severe and irreparable blow to his country's standing and prestige, not to mention his own integrity.

### Jerusalem Issue Seen Lessened With Arab League

*JN1910095490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Oct 90 p 1, 15*

[Editorial: "Do They Prefer the United States to Jerusalem?"]

[Text] While we welcome the Arab League Council's agreement on the resolutions they passed concering the criminal Zionist aggression against the sons of the Palestinian people in the holy al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard in Jerusalem, we are embittered by the Arab reality that the Council meetings revealed, such as the attempts of some Arabs, allied with the United States, to conceal their positions that defend the U.S. policy regarding the Palestine question and the rights of the Palestinian people to their holy shrines.

At a time when the Arab nation has recognized the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, we see some harming this representation by their attempts to delete the paragraph of the draft resolution presented by the PLO that condemns the procrastinatory stance taken by Washington in the Security Council to protect Israel, its strategic ally.

In reality, the position taken by those who hover around the United States needs no clarification or comment and is clearer than any words or statements, especially since the issue here does not deal with one aspect of Arab differences or one of the secondary causes of this nation. On the contrary, the position deals with what the Arabs have agreed to call the first pan-Arab cause.

This is because this position has become clear now that the priorities of the old Arab regime have changed. The issue of Jerusalem has now been demoted from its first position on the scale of traditional interests and has been overtaken by issues which deal with strengthening the unholy alliance in Gulf waters and on its sizzling, sandy shores.

If some Arabs are more afraid of U.S. anger than God's wrath over His home in the land of Palestine, then we can feel nothing but pity for them. All we can do to help them is to ask God Almighty for His forgivenness.

What happened in Tunis is something that could divide two eras of Arab political life, which has had its fill of lies and has overflowed with degradation, rip-offs, and losses. In addition, the fall of the last fig leaf and the revelation of the aging Arab regime's ugly defects is something that could also set roots for a brighter and more active new Arab awakening, more capable of responding to the real challenges this nation faces.

## Editorial Calls for UN Sanction Against Israel

*JN1810144190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Oct 90 pp 1, 14*

[Editorial: "The Israeli Challenge and U.S. Inaction"]

[Text] Israel yesterday reemphasized its challenge to international legitimacy and the UN Security Council when its deputy foreign minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, announced that Israel would not receive the investigative committee sent by the Security Council to Jerusalem in accordance with its Resolution 672. His statement, made before the Knesset, confirmed the Israeli Government's position on the resolution. Meanwhile, not a single practical response to this challenge has been made by Washington, which incited the UN Security Council to issue three resolutions against Iraq in the same day. Thus, Washington once again practices a selective approach to international legitimacy. Clearly, this conduct will harm the UN Security Council's credibility unless the other permanent members rush to make it impose sanctions against Israel commensurate with its challenge to international legitimacy and the bloody crimes it committed in the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard.

Needless to say, sluggishness in imposing these sanctions and wasting time by appeasing Israel in the hope that it will agree to receive the UN mission might diminish international legitimacy. If it continues, it may even lead to nullifying the legitimacy of the UN Security Council resolutions issued against Iraq, because legitimacy is indivisible and a selective approach to it is unacceptable.

We urge the UN Security Council permanent members, which have used international legitimacy as the pretext to pass resolutions against Iraq, to take the initiative to show respect for international legitimacy and pass similar resolutions against Israel, especially since the Israeli aggressors were not only satisfied with challenging Resolution 672 and the crimes they committed at the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard, but they also—in the person of Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, head of the Israeli Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee—yesterday reaffirmed their adherence to the annexation of Arab Jerusalem, claiming that Jerusalem was Jewish even before Washington was American.

Undoubtedly, the permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as the whole Arab family, remember that the Security Council has made resolutions declaring the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem null and void. However, this resolution, issued many years ago, still lacks an international mechanism to keep the aggressors' hands off the city.

We urge all Arabs to take a decisive stand to prompt the United States and its Atlantic allies to impose deterrent sanctions against Israel for challenging international legitimacy; for the massacres it committed; and for its insistence on continuing the annexation of Arab Jerusalem, building settlements in the occupied territories, and occupying those territories in violation of international legitimacy and will.

Arabs must make the United States and its Atlantic allies understand that failure to deal with Israel by the same standard of legitimacy that was used as a pretext to punish Iraq may force them to wash their hands of the resolutions issued against Iraq, especially since, in substance, the Gulf crisis is an inter-Arab crisis and Arabs are still able to achieve a just and honorable solution to that crisis without the outside interference.

Israel's refusal to receive the UN investigative delegation and the United States' inactivity on this issue confirms the opinion that concern for international law was not the reason behind the United States' deployment of forces and its instigations against Iraq. Otherwise, why does the United States not show the same concern to end the Israeli occupation of the usurped Arab territories and punish the Israeli aggressors for the crimes they have committed and their challenge of the international legitimacy that they boast about?

The Israeli challenge and U.S. inactivity confirm the belief that the pledge made by President Bush to start dealing with the Palestine question after resolving the Gulf crisis is merely a maneuver, especially since the al-Aqsa massacre took place after, not before, the crisis. The challenge and inaction must prompt all Arabs to take the initiative themselves and adopt a unified stand to ask the Americans and their Atlantic allies to keep their hands off the Gulf. Only then will doors be opened to resolve the crisis, and no one doubts that fraternal Iraq will be the first to formulate a fair and honorable Arab solution.

## Army Command Forms Joint Committee With Syria

*NC1910101590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] The Information Department of the Defense Ministry's Military Room has issued the following statement: In completion of measures to establish the legitimate authority and to facilitate matters for the public for their own convenience by dealing immediately and effectively with all all casual problems in public and private institutions, the Army Command has decided the following:

1. To open offices to receive the public in the following areas: Jabal Lubnan area headquarters under the command of Colonel 'Izz-al- Din Naffa', asisted by Lieutenant Colonel Michel Rahbni; the Beirut area headquarters under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Pilot Mustafa Ibrahim;

2. To form a joint Lebanese-Syrian military committee, headed by Lieutenant Colonel Jamil al-Sayyid, the headquarters of which will be in the General Inspectorate building in al-Rayhaniyah;

3. The aforementioned offices shall be contacted by the public to discuss their affairs with competent authorities effective Monday. The Coordination Committee will deal with casual field incidents and use appropriate means to deal with each individual case, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Forces; and

4. Carrying arms without a license from the competent authorities and confiscation of finished or furnished houses is prohibited.

The statement said that for reporting of such matters the aforementioned headquarters shoud be contacted through the National Defense Ministry and Army Command telephone numbers 482400, 452400, 862700, 862701, 372117, or 311009 or by reporting in person to these headquarters.

## Lebanese Army, Syrian Forces Deployed to Al-Matn

*NC1810140790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Work continued today in B'abda and the al-Matn region to normalize the situation, dismantle the contact lines, and reopen the roads. With the arrival of big bulldozers and trucks, work was intensified, beginning in the al-Tayyunah traffic circle and extending in all directions toward Mar Mikha'il on the old Sidon road, toward Sami al-Sulh Street, Badaru, the army ordinance depot, toward the al-Barbir bridge and the side streets between 'Ayn al-Rummanah and al-Shiyah.

Meanwhile, work resumed today to reopen the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat road. The work was not completed because of the many mines, ramparts, and obstacles in the road.

Lebanese Army brigades and the Syrian forces have redeployed in the al-Matn region to protect the citizens and prevent attacks and security violations. Within this framework, units of the 6th Brigade deployed in 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Shiyah, and B'abda Palace and the surrounding area. The 1st Brigade deployed around B'abdat, Bayt Miri, and al-Mansuriyah. The 12th Brigade deployed in Kafr Matta and al-Hadath. The 2nd Brigade deployed along the northern al-Matn coast from al-Mukallis to al-Dubayyah. The army units took over the main streets, junctions, and government institutions, and established fixed roadblocks.

The Syrian forces have reinforced their presence on both sides of the Beirut-Damascus International Highway, from the al-Musharrafiyah traffic circle in al-Shiyah up to the 'Alayh traffic circle. They took up positions in Amal Movement and Hizballah posts on the al-Musharrafiyah-Mar Mikha'il road. They began widening this road up to al-Hazimiyah to facilitate the movement of vehicles.

## AFP Says Soldiers Loyal to 'Awn Executed

*NC1810193890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] According to an Internal Security Forces source, 350 people were killed and 1200 wounded in the military operation which ended General Michel 'Awn's rebellion. The source denied reports that soldiers loyal to 'Awn were liquidated.

[Paris AFP in English, in a related, Beirut-datelined report at 1707 GMT on 18 October, says, "Around 100 Lebanese soldiers loyal to General Michel 'Awn were executed after the Syrian-led assault on the rebel Christian military leader, hospital officials said Thursday.

["Officials at B'abda hospital, near the hub of the fighting last Saturday, said most of the soldiers were shot in the head at point- blank range while some had marks on the neck showing they had been strangled.

["Lebanese Red Cross teams and other relief workers brought the bodies to the hospital's morgue between Sunday and Wednesday.

["Reliable sources said another 17 soldiers had been executed near the Christian village of Al-Kahhalah, nine kilometres (six miles) from Beirut.

["The bodies of two civilians who had also been executed were taken to the morgue of another hospital in the B'abda suburb of the capital, hospital sources said."

[AFP also says, "Hospital officials said the bodies were in military fatigues but stripped of identification tags and papers. Twenty-four bodies were still in the morgue Thursday while the rest had been identified and collected by their families.

["Two of those executed were Lebanese officers, as shown by the insignia on their uniforms.

["Relief teams said most of the bodies were found on the Beirut-Damascus road and near Suq Al-Gharb, on the outskirts of Beirut, both strategic positions in Saturday's fighting."]

### Defense Ministry Issues Denial

*NC1910064990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] There has been wide-scale reaction to the media campaign of distortion and defamation designed to cause confusion. The Defense Ministry's military information department issued a statement denying an AFP report that 100 soldiers were executed during the B'abda operation. The statement said that this report is untrue, and that bodies of soldiers who were killed during the military operation are in the B'abda hospital.

In dismissing these reports, political sources noted that most of the prominent officers who were known for their loyalty to General 'Awn are still in the custody of the legitimate command.

### 'Awn Family, Others Allowed To Leave Country

*NC1910154090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Two French planes arrived at the airbase at Beirut Airport this afternoon to transport the families of the officers who had taken refuge in the French Embassy in Mar Taqla, including General 'Awn's family. The families will be transported to Beirut Airport amid tight security measures.

REUTER reported that Lebanon has allowed the family of Gen. 'Awn and those of the officers 'Isam Abu-Jamrah and Edgar Ma'luf to leave the country and take asylum in France. The agency added that 'Awn's wife, his three daughters, family members of two of his senior officers, and three officers from a total of 15 officers have been permitted to leave.

### PSP Denies Participation in Military Operation

*NC1910133190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] circles have denied that any PSP personnel have entered any township in the areas previously controlled by former army commander General Michel 'Awn, particularly the Bsus township. They noted that the roads leading to this township are still closed from all directions.

PSP sources asserted that the party's fighters did not take part in the military operation. They added that they leave it to the citizens of the townships mentioned by the media of the so-called Lebanese Forces to tell the truth about this matter.

The sources pointed out that the method of cheap one-upsmanship, exploiting people's blood, and inciting them is not new to them. They said that in all areas some citizens were killed by the bombardment. Among these were citizens in some mountain villages and towns, particularly 'Alayh and al-'Abbadiyah.

### Syrians Withdraw From Palace, Defense Ministry

*NC1910064690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] AFP has reported that the Syrian Army withdrew from the B'abda Palace after having withdrawn from the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah.

### Hizballah Hands Over Positions to Syrian Forces

*NC1810195590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] REUTER reports that Hizballah handed over three positions in the southern suburb of Beirut to the Syrian Forces today.

### Source Notes 'Arafat Movement in South

*NC1910081290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] An Islamic source has noted that Syrian-Iranian relations are not only good but can also be described as excellent. He said there are no fundmental obstacles to creating a greater Beirut, especially from Hizballah.

He pointed out that President al-Asad's visit to Tehran did not aim to reach agreement with Tehran on a mutual understanding of regional crises, including the Lebanese crisis, but to announce such an agreement because the details had already been discussed before the visit. The lengthy bilateral meetings between Presidents al-Asad and Rafsanjani, during which they agreed on the smallest details, were of great importance.

The Islamic source said that Abu-'Ammar seems to be preparing for something in the South. He added that the Abu-'Ammar group's suspicious military movements during the past 48 hours are an attempt of some sort to foil the government's successes, but everyone is aware of this.

## Al-Shar' Reviews Developments in Lebanon, Kuwait

*PM1910141690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 90 pp 1-4*

[Report on interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Hatim al-Butaywi in Rabat, date unspecified"]

[Text] Rabat, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Syrian foreign minister has said that now that the 'Awn problem has been resolved, everything in Lebanon can be resolved. He emphasized his country's commitment to helping the legitimate Lebanese authorities extend their authority to all areas of Lebanon "so that the state can resolve all the problems facing it with its own resources and as soon as possible." In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT before his departure from Rabat, where he attended the Jerusalem Committee meeting, Al-Shar' emphasized Syria's full commitment to the al-Ta'if agreement, especially the clause concerning Syrian-Lebanese relations.

Asked whether the Syrian forces will withdraw from Lebanon now that the General 'Awn problem has been resolved, Al-Shar' said: The Syrian presence is stipulated openly in the al-Ta'if agreement, and in a special clause. Syria will honor all the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement with regard to its role in Lebanon.

With regard to the demand by Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Socialist Progressive Party, that a Lebanese-Syrian court be set up to try 'Awn, Al-Shar' said: The setting up of a court to try 'Awn is a Lebanese affair, and Syria is not concerned with trying 'Awn. 'Awn's trial is a matter for the legitimate Lebanese Government and the Lebanese judiciary. So we do not support setting up a Lebanese-Syrian court to try 'Awn.

The Syrian minister added: The ending of the state of rebellion is an important step and a good start for normalizing conditions in Lebanon, especially with regard to unifying Beirut and the Lebanese Army. That can then be followed by steps to strengthen the legitimate Lebanese authorities and to extend their authority to all areas of Lebanon.

With regard to the protest of some quarters in France against the Syrian role in toppling 'Awn and their demand for a bloc that will condemn the Syrian presence in line with the international bloc that condemns the Iraqi presence in Kuwait, Al-Shar' said: France does not link the Lebanese question to the Kuwaiti question. He pointed out that he met in New York with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas who confirmed that France does not link the two issues, adding that France has long-standing traditional relations with a section of the Lebanese, though not with the whole of Lebanon. We hope that France will view with the same interest its relations with Lebanon within the framework of a united Lebanon that embraces both Christians and Muslims.

Al-Shar' added: This old French view has helped to deepen the wounds and disputes in Lebanon. He also expressed his hope that the French would understand that a new Lebanon has been established and that everyone must support it and the al-Ta'if agreement without looking at the past.

Asked whether the solution of the 'Awn problem will pave the way to disbanding the militias in Lebanon, Minister al-Shar' said: It is neither an easy nor a difficult matter. Now that the 'Awn problem has been resolved, the other matters in Lebanon can now be resolved. Whereas if the 'Awn problem and his rebellion in the B'abda palace and the eastern area of Beirut remained, it would have been impossible to resolve the other problems.

Al-Shar' denied that he could have held contacts with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz on the sidelines of the Jerusalem Committee meeting in Rabat.

With regard to the final solution to the Gulf crisis envisaged by Syria, the Syrian foreign minister said: It is difficult to decide on a particular end to the Gulf crisis. Syria believes that the right solution to the Gulf crisis is a peaceful one that spares Iraq great dangers, namely, the Iraqi leadership's unconditional withdrawal and restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait. Unless this happens, the dangers will remain. We in Syria hope, and are currently working, to secure a clear unified Arab position rejecting the occupation. If such a position had been established, the Iraqi leadership would have realized its grave mistake in invading Kuwait.

He went on to say: But the fact that some Arab states regrettably voiced reservations about or abstained from voting on the Security Council [as published] resolutions, deluded the Iraqi leadership somewhat, causing it to become more rigid and intransigent and to take the annexation step after the Cairo summit.

With regard to his assessment of the the results of the Jerusalem Committee proceedings in Rabat, Minister al-Shar' expressed his satisfaction with the final statement issued by the Jerusalem Committee, since it includes a condemnation of the barbaric massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces in the al-Aqsa Mosque. He pointed out that the statement emphasized the need to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian issue within the framework of an international conference. He said that there are no conflicting wings or parties when it comes to the Arabs' central issue—the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue.

## Al-Shar' Links British Hostages, Diplomatic Ties

*LD1810144690 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1333 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[By Alastair Percival, PRESS ASSOCIATION, in Damascus]

[Text] The Syrian Government today dashed hopes of an early release of British hostages in Beirut, tying their freedom to a resumption of Anglo-Syrian diplomatic relations.

In Damascus, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said the kidnappers were unlikely to free Terry Waite, John

McCarthy and Jackie Mann before London and Damascus had exchanged ambassadors. Britain cut off ties with Syria in 1987 after accusing Damascus of involvement in a plot to bomb an Israeli plane leaving from London. The foreign minister said "very recent" contacts through intermediaries about a resumption of diplomatic ties had "not been fruitful."

In an interview last night with U.S. television network NBC, Mr Al-Shar' said: "Those who are keeping the hostages, even if we exerted a lot of effort, know there is no diplomatic relations between Syria and Britain.

"That is why they would not deliver. When they know there are diplomatic relations, they will take more seriously our efforts."

Mr. Al-Shar' told British journalists summoned to the Foreign Ministry today: "I am just stating the facts. I am trying to give you an objective analysis.

"I am describing the realities. I am not trying to give you false hopes."

He added: "We are not putting any conditions because diplomatic relations between any two countries are good for both. It is not a one-sided interest."

The foreign minister said he could not anticipate whether a resumption of diplomatic links would take weeks or months.

Observers in Damascus point out that this latest extraordinary pressure on the Foreign Office in London comes just a week after Syria had raised hopes that a hostage release could be imminent.

It follows the defeat by Syrian President Al-Asad's forces of Christian General Michel 'Awn, following which Syria regained control of East Beirut.

The foreign minister said Syria would continue on humanitarian grounds to work for the release of the hostages. He would not rule out all possibility of their freedom before diplomatic ties resumed. Mr. Al-Shar added: "We believe we have failed, so far, in relation to a number of British hostages, perhaps due to the absence of diplomatic relations between Syria and Britain."

Syria has good ties with Iran and played a key role in the release of several Western hostages, including Brian Keenan.

The Iranian foreign minister is due in Damascus for talks in the next few days and Tehran is seen by Western diplomats in Damascus as the "Catalyst" for the hostage release process. But Western diplomatic sources today cautioned that it would be wrong to assume that the Tehran envoy's forthcoming visit indicated that an early release was likely.

The Foreign Office in London is unlikely to be able to offer Damascus an exchange of ambassadors with the judicial inquiry into the Lockerbie jet disaster under way. The American Embassy in Damascus is believed to have handed over to the Syrian authorities the conclusion of Lockerbie investigators that a Syrian-based terrorist group carried out the attack.

Mr. Al-Shar' said that if there was any evidence that those behind any terrorist act, such as the Lockerbie bombing, were living in Syria or using Syrian territory, "then the Syrian authorities are ready to bring them to justice."

He disclosed that Syria had made particular efforts to secure the release of one British hostage, whom he declined to name.

"That is why we secured the release of Brian Keenan. The kidnappers were under the misapprehension that he was British, but we were able to point out that he was an Irish citizen."

### French Legislator Expects Progress on 'Awn Issue

*LD1810152790 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Excerpt] [Announcer] [passage omitted] The president of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the [National] Assembly Michel Vauzelle is in Damascus. According to what he told Serge de Sempini of Radio France Internationale [Paris International Service], the matter should be able to be sorted out.

[Begin recording] [Vauzelle] Syria wishes to respect the undertakings it has made in the framework of the al-Ta'if agreements, which constitute international law and are for a return to a normal situation in Lebanon. So the fact that General 'Awn has asked for asylum from France and that it has been made a point of honor to give him asylum, to receive him and welcome him, does not appear to them to be a damning factor and they see no disadvantage in it.

[De Sempini] Do you think that General 'Awn is going to be able to leave Lebanon? Is the Lebanese government going to have the same attitude as the Syrian government?

[Vauzelle] It is understandable that, given the circumstances, the Lebanese government should naturally have raised a certain number of questions. As the president [Mitterrand] would say, using a phrase which is dear to him, time has to be given a bit of time so that tensions and passions can calm down and abate, and then we will see, perhaps in a few days' time or, I don't know, in a short time, whether the matter can in fact be tackled in a less heated manner. But I think that we shall progress toward a positive outcome. [end recording]

### Further on Vauzelle Comments

*JN1910075990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Mr. Michel Vauzelle, president of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the French National Assembly, has stressed that Syria plays a very important political role in the region, and that its role will grow larger in the future.

In a press conference he held last night at the Meridien Hotel in Damascus attended by French National Assembly member (Gilan Gal) and Arab and international media correspondents, Vauzelle said: We have come to Syria because we believed it would be very beneficial for France to know the views of Syrian officials regarding the developments in the Gulf and the Syrian officials' future views on this subject. He pointed out that the positions of Syria and France over the Gulf crisis and the issue of Lebanon are very close. He expressed his country's concern to improve ties of cooperation and friendship with Syria. He said: France and Syria denounce the Iraqi aggression against a sovereign Arab state, namely Kuwait. They also denounce the annexation of this state and the holding of hostages.

Mr. Vauzelle expressed the hope that the crisis in the Gulf will be resolved through the Arab family's resolutions. He said that France believes the Arab solution will be the best solution. However, he added, in the absence of the Arab solution, the solution mut be achieved through the United Nations, which represents the world community.

He pointed out that all the states he visited have stressed the need for strict implementation of the resolutions against Iraq to force it to withdraw from Kuwait.

Regarding Lebanon, Vauzelle said: Our viewpoints were close to each other and in agreement on the need to implement the al-Ta'if accord in full. He pointed out that the page that was turned by ending 'Awn's mutiny must allow Lebanon to regain its unity, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. He said: France underlines national unity and rallying around the president and the legitimate government, and will not change its position in this regard.

He referred to Syria's important role in implementing the al-Ta'if accord and the restoration of normal life to Lebanon following many long years of pain and suffering.

Regarding Syrian-French relations, Mr. Vauzelle expressed his country's desire to strengthen and improve the ties of cooperation and friendship between the two countries, particularly after the developments that had taken place in the world. He said with their influence and weight, Syria and France can play an important role to advance that cooperation to achieve peace in the Mediterranean.

Answering a question on linking the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question, Mr. Vauzelle said that each problem has its special characteristics and they cannot be joined together.

Regarding Syria's viewpoint on France's granting of political asylum to 'Awn, the French official said: Syria believes this matter concerns the Lebanese Government, and that France and Lebanon should discuss this issue.

## Turkey's Ozal Concludes Visit, Departs 18 Oct

*JN1810131890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Excerpt] Turkish President Turgut Ozal left Damascus at 1245 today following a two-day visit to Syria. President Hafiz al-Asad was at the head of those seeing him off at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

## Qaddah Receives Soviet Solidarity Delegation

*JN1810204090 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1900 GMT 18 Oct*

[Text] A delegation of the Soviet Solidarity Committee was received in Damascus today by the assistant secretary of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party, Dr. Sulayman Qaddah.

Present at the meeting were Mr. al-As'ad, a member of the central leadership of the Progressive National Front, and the deputy chairman of the Syrian Solidarity Committee, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus, Mr. Aleksandr Zotov.

Relations between the two solidarity committees in Syria and the USSR, and ways of promoting them were discussed in light of the traditional strong cooperation and friendship relations between the two countries under the leaderships of President Hafiz al-Asad and President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Dr. Qaddah reviewed Syria's principled national stands vis-a-vis Israel's expansionist ambitions and its persistence in a policy of annexation, especially in light of the growing numbers of Jews immigrating to Palestine. Dr. Qaddah, referring to the situation arising from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, said the Syrian stand is firm regarding the need to force Iraqi invasion troops out of Kuwait, and the need to reinstate the legitimate government of Kuwait, especially because this would conduct [as heard] the ending of foreign military presence in the Gulf.

The head of the Soviet delegation affirmed the Soviet Union's constant backing and support of the Arab cause, and of Syria's steadfastness. He expressed his appreciation of Syria's principled stand under the leadership of the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party and its secretary general, President Hafiz al-Asad.

## Afghanistan

### 'Fierce' Fighting Reported in Kabol Province

*BK1910102490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between the mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in Kabol Province. In two separate attacks, the mujahidin killed 10 Kabul soldiers and wounded five others. Of these, five soldiers were killed in the mujahidin attack on [words indistinct] posts in the Kuh-e Safi area of Kabol Province. The mujahidin inflicted heavy material losses on the Kabul regime in the (Sorkh Bulandi) area. They also destroyed a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

### Air Force Moves To Defend Qalat

*BK1810150390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1454 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 18 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas kept up heavy attacks on security posts in a strategic provincial capital Thursday forcing the air force to rush reinforcements to defend the city, officials said here.

Troops backed by helicopter gunships and jet fighters were resisting the mujahidin guerrilla advance in Qalat, the capital of the southeastern province of Zabul bordering Pakistan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He said air force helicopters Thursday completed ferrying troop reinforcements, arms, ammunition and food to the besieged garrison in Balahissar fort on a mountain peak in Qalat.

"The armed opposition is firing heavy and medium machine guns at security posts around Qalat, but our brave soldiers are resisting," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, adding that the fighting continued throughout Thursday. He did not disclose the strength of the reinforcements or the number of aircraft involved in the operations. It was also not known if any helicopter had been attacked by the guerrillas known to possess anti-aircraft missiles.

Diplomatic sources here said helicopters were operating out of a sprawling U.S.-built airbase in Qandahar City, about one hour's journey to the battle zone in Qalat.

Residents here in the capital saw intensified helicopter activity. Dozens of Soviet-built MI-8 transport helicopters escorted by MI-35 attack helicopters were seen flying over the city, but it was not immediately clear if they were involved in the operations. "It is likely that the government sent some aircraft from here, but they would first head for Qandahar and operate under the local command," a military expert here said. He said aircraft being hit by mujahidin guerrillas could not be ruled out. The government had to resort to a massive supply by air because convoys sent by road had been ambushed.

The mujahidin guerrillas had claimed in Pakistan that they attacked and captured three tanks and seven trucks loaded with weapons and food on their way to Qalat from Qandahar, about 140 kilometres (88 miles) by road. The Foreign Ministry spokesman could neither confirm nor deny the guerrilla claim.

Afghanistan's main highway linking at least eight provinces in the west and southwestern part of the country runs through Qalat and a fall of the city into mujahidin hands could cut off the main supply line to those provinces. "The government cannot afford to lose Qalat. They will have to defend it at any cost. Otherwise they will have a bigger problem keeping the entire southern region supplied," a diplomat here said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the troops had inflicted heavy losses on the rebels, but could not give figures

In four days of fighting up to Wednesday, the government had claimed killing at least 120 guerrillas and seriously wounding over 100. The government has not mentioned any of its losses while the guerrillas admit losing only eight men.

The guerrilla onslaught on Qalat, 370 kilometres (230 miles) from Kabul, came after their October 3 success in capturing Tarin Kowt, the capital of neighbouring Oruzgan Province. Tarin Kowt, which is regarded here as a small town with little strategic importance, fell when the governor there defected to the mujahidin after three weeks of secret negotiations.

"If the government is unable to keep Qalat supplied continuously, then there would be tremendous pressure on the governor to defect like his colleague did in Tarin Kowt. Kabul will have to guard against another Tarin Kowt episode," another diplomat said. The Kabul regime has blamed the current upsurge of guerrilla activity on the Pakistan military intelligence.

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil has complained against Pakistan to the United Nations Security Council and asked for its intervention to stop Pakistan's alleged interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

### Resistance Leader Denies Pakistani Influence

*BK1810115690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 18 (AFP)—Legendary Afghan resistance leader Ahmad Shah Masud denied Thursday that he could be manipulated by Pakistan in his struggle against the pro-Soviet regime in Kabul. "Our plans for jihad (holy war) are independently conceived and applied and have never been affected by the position of this or that country in the past," Mr. Masud said. "They will not be in the future."

The resistance leader was visiting Pakistan for the first time since the 12-year war in Afghanistan started. The commander gained enormous prestige by defeating Soviet occupation forces in the 1980s with a small army which he trained himself.

Some Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic guerrilla factions have been accused of being manipulated by the Pakistan intelligence services, and Kabul has blamed Islamabad for a renewed outbreak of guerrilla action in Afghanistan.

In a statement relayed through the resistance-controlled MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] Agency, the commander said he came to Islamabad to meet political leaders to discuss a meeting of rebel leaders he chaired last week near the Pakistan border. "That is the principal reason for my visit," he said. The commander also met the Pakistan military chief, general Aslam Beg.

Mr. Masud said he had reached "certain agreements" with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the fundamentalist Afghan leader in Pakistan. Mr. Masud, who had a serious falling out with Mr. Hekmatyar after the Soviet withdrawal of troops in February 1989, said he expected to meet Mr. Hekmatyar again to discuss "problems outstanding."

### Najibullah Congratulates Relief Operation Pilots

*LD1810195190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, went to the headquarters of the General Command of the Air and Air Defense Forces this afternoon and met the pilots who took part in a relief operation in Zabol Province.

Esteemed Najibullah, accompanied by General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense, and Gen. Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security, was welcomed at the entrance to the command headquarters by Leutenant General 'Abdul Fatah, general commander of the Air and Air Defense Forces, and other senior officers.

The president then addressed those who landed forces in the city of Qalat. He said: You—the courageous sons of Afghans—have carried out your duties for the high interests of Afghanistan in such a way as to prove untrue, once again, the incorrect claims by the militarists of Pakistan and leaders of the extremist opposition groups, broadcast last night by Western radios, that the city of Qalat has fallen. You have proved in action that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are prepared and have the capability to inflict deadly blows on the enemies of Afghanistan's independence and freedom in every corner of the country, and to defend its territorial integrity, peace, and security.

Leutenant General 'Abdul Fatah, commander of the Air and Air Defense Forces, then spoke on behalf of the personnel of the Air Force and those who participated in the landing of forces in Qalat City. He said that the instructions and careful and continuous care of esteemed Najibullah, supreme commander of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan, have once again given strength to our courageous soldiers, who have displayed self-sacrifice so far. In the future, too, they will fight to the end for the defense of the independence, peace, and security of the country and people of Afghanistan.

In conclusion, esteemed President Najibullah commended those who took part in the Qalat operation. Special promotions were made and orders of the Republic of Afghanistan awarded. In the special promotions, Colonels Muhammad 'Atiq and Muhamad Baqi were promoted to the rank of major general.

## Bangladesh

### Ershad Returns From Belgium 19 Oct

*BK1910132390 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Excerpts] President Ershad returned to Dhaka this morning, ending the three-day official visit to Belgium. He was accompanied by First Lady Begum Raushan Ershad and Foreign Minister Mr. Anisul Islam Mahmud. President Ershad was received at the Zia International Airport by Vice President Mr. Moudud Ahmed. The prime minister, Qazi Zafar Ahmed; Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain, ministers, chiefs of three services, and high civil and military officials were present.

During the visit, President Ershad called on King Baudouin of Belgium and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. President and Begum Raushan Ershad attended an exclusive luncheon hosted by the King and Queen Fabiola in their honor at the royal palace. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh and Belgium have signed an agreement on avoidance of double taxation. Foreign Minister Mr. Mahmud and his Belgian counterpart, Mr. Eyskens, signed the agreement in Brussels on Thursday on behalf of their governments. Earlier, two other agreements were signed between the two countries. Under one of the agreements, Bangladesh will receive 100 million franc equivalent of $3.3 million from Belgium.

### Lawyers Challenge Government University Closure

*BK1910062990 Hong Kong AFP in English 0542 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 19 (AFP)—A group of leading Bangladeshi lawyers is challenging the government's decision to shut Dhaka University in the face of growing anti-government demonstrations by students.

Lawyers and newspaper reports said Friday that a "demand of justice" notice was served late Thursday to the Ministries of Education and Law and Justice, and also on a top official who signed the order under which the universities were closed. "We studied the orders ... before taking the decision to challenge the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad," one lawyer said.

Dhaka University, a traditional hot-bed of Bangladesh student politics, was ordered shut Sunday. The Engineering and Technology, Jahangirnagar, Rajshahi and Agriculture Universities were closed within the next several days. All other educational institutions in the capital city were shut for an indefinite period.

The closure orders came after student activists fought pitched battles with security forces during opposition-backed campaigns since October 10 against Mr. Ershad's eight-year-old government.

The petition, on behalf of nine teachers, students and their parents, said the university's closure was detrimental to the interests of students, was "unwarranted in law and facts, and also arbitrary and unlawful interference into the university autonomy."

One political analyst said the aim of the closure orders was to "extinguish the fire" of mounting student unrest before it spreads further.

The petitioners gave the government until Sunday to reopen the university or they said they would take the action to court.

The opposition has been campaigning for the last eight years for Mr. Ershad's resignation and free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government. It maintains that fair polls would not be possible as long as Mr. Ershad remains in power.

Mr. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup, dissolved his own ruling Jatiya Party's student wing in 1986, saying the move would help restore peace on campuses. He urged his opponents to follow suit, but the opposition has rejected his appeal.

The latest round of agitation that began October 10 has so far claimed at least nine lives, including two students, and left scores injured.

The lawyers, all belonging to opposition political groups, include Kamal Hossain, a top Awami League leader, Ishtiaq Ahmed, Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, Shudansu Shekhar Halder, Amirul Islam and Rafiqul Islam. The group of lawyers last month successfully challenged a government order closing a news magazine for publishing anti-government articles.

### Thirty Percent Cut in Oil Imports Expected

*BK1810112290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0900 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, Oct 18 (AFP)—Bangladesh is expected to cut its oil imports by 30 percent during the current fiscal year because of price rises in the international market triggered by the Gulf crisis, official sources said here Thursday.

A Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) source said the Gulf crisis could cost Bangladesh about 400 million dollars in excess to procure its targetted 1.5 million metric tons of petroleum products annually.

"If the oil price further jumps in the world market the cost may go up and force us to cut imports," the source added.

Golam Mohammad Quader, a top BPC official, said it would be very difficult to meet the overcost in purchasing oil due to fund constraints, and the cut may be necessary even with the current prices. He said 325 million dollars were budgeted for oil imports this year but because of price rises the bill could exceed 700 million dollars, which was beyond what the company could handle.

The last consignment procured included 100,000 tonnes of crude from Saudi Arabia at 36 dollars per barrel instead of the previous 15 dollars and 20,000 tonnes of finished products from Singapore for 50 dollars per barrel instead of the earlier price of 22 dollars.

Bangladesh obtains most of its requirements from the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Singapore and, before Iraq's August 2 invasion of the Emirate, Kuwait.

BPC sources said they were looking for alternatives if war broke out in the Gulf and have received positive responses from Malaysia and Australia.

Meanwhile, a senior BPC official said the authorities here have undertaken steps to ensure a large scale switch-over to the use of indigenous natural gas in a bid to reduce fuel consumption in the country. The official, Mr. Satipati said indigenous natural gas meets 60 percent of Bangladesh's total energy requirement.

## India

### Mandela Comments on South African Violence

*BK1910022890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1842 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Calcutta, India, Oct 18 (AFP)—Nelson Mandela accused South African Government agencies Thursday of fomenting black-on-black violence which he warned would stall the peace process.

"If the government is not in favour of ensuring peace there cannot be any peace," the 72-year-old black nationalist leader told reporters in this eastern metropolis on the penultimate day of a four-day visit to India.

The remarks followed a public speech in which Mr. Mandela blamed death squads organised by Pretoria's intelligence agencies for black factional strife he said had left 4,000 people dead in Natal and 1,000 in Transvaal since July.

He named the National Intelligence Service and the military intelligence as the organisers of the squads he charged were "prowling the townships, indiscriminately killing men, women and chldren and saying the killings are due to the war of black against black."

"But that is not so," the deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC) told an audience of almost 100,000 people at Calcutta's Eden Gardens, many of whom were waving ANC flags and sporting Mandela tee shirts.

It was the most impressive Indian turnout to greet Mr. Mandela, who flew to Calcutta Thursday from an overnight visit to the Hindu holy city of Benares.

Mr. Mandela told the ensuing news conference that he had appointed an ANC functionary to investigate the black factional strife and had asked President Frederik de Klerk to ensure the peace process faced no hurdles.

He repeated his confident assertions that the black nationalist struggle against the white minority government's apartheid policy was near to victory.

"We have no doubt that we will win, and let me say nothing will stand in the way of South African people in achieving that. I am leaving this country as a man full of strength and hope."

If and when the ANC comes to power, it would nationalise practically every facet of the economy to balance what he called "the unequal distribution of wealth."

Mr. Mandela cited as an example the fact that whites held an overwhelming 87 per cent of all shares listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

"We will nationalise mines, monopoly industries and financial institutions," he said in reply to a question.

Mr. Mandela said he was deeply moved by India's support to the fight against racial discrimination in South Africa and the warm welcome he had received from the Indian people.

Earlier Thursday, he was presented with the prestigious Jamnalal Bajaj award, named after the late Indian industrialist and freedom fighter, in recognition of his "relentless struggle for human freedom and human dignity based on justice and equality."

The award included a cash prize of about 30,000 dollars.

Mr. Mandela had also been presented India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna or Jewel of India, during the trip which took him first to New Delhi and briefly to the Taj Mahal town of Agra.

India has rolled out the red carpet for Mr. Mandela, paying his first visit to Asia since his release in February from 27 years of imprisonment.

He has been accorded the treatment normally reserved for a head of state in a reaffirmation of what a government spokesman described as New Delhi's faith that he is the only leader of stature in South Africa and the rallying point for moderate forces.

India, a staunch opponent of apartheid, has no relations with the white minority government in Pretoria. It was at the forefront of the campaign for Mr. Mandela's freedom.

### Departs 19 Oct

*BK1910103690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] The African National Congress leader, Dr. Nelson Mandela, has left for Indonesian capital Jakarta this morning from Calcutta after his five-day state visit to India. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh; the West Bengal panchayat [local councils] minister, Mr. Vany Chaudhury; the Janata Dal leader, Mr. Rajmohan Gandhi; and other dignitaries were present at the airport to see him off.

Later, talking to our Calcutta correspondent, the minister of state for external affairs minister, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said that Dr. Mandela was overwhelmed with the reception accorded to him in Calcutta. Dr. Mandela has described his Calcutta visit as a notable experience. Expressing his thanks, he said his dream about India had come true to the letter.

## Controversy Continues Over Chariot Trip to Shrine

### BJP To Hold Chariot Journey

*BK1810125890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] general secretary, Mr. Krishna Lal Sharma, said in New Delhi today that his party will not yield to any pressure and will go ahead with its program of Rath Yatra [chariot journey to the Hindu-Muslim disputed shrine in Ayodhya]. In a statement, he claimed that the Rath Yatra is quite within the limits of law. He said any attempt to prevent it will amount to flouting the court verdict which, according to him, allows regular and free worship at the disputed Ayodhya Temple site.

### CPI-M Deplores BJP Threat

*BK1810145390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has strongly deplored the stand of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] that it will withdraw support to the National Front government if the Rath Yatra [chariot journey] is stopped or construction of the temple at the disputed site at Ayodhya is prevented. In a statement, the politburo of the party today said that this shows the total unconcern of the BJP for maintaining peace and communal amity in the country. It said the government has now no other option but to adopt a firm stand to maintain law and order and to ensure that the program of the BJP and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] does not in any way disturb communal amity. The CPI-M also criticized the Congress-I for keeping away from yesterday's all-party meeting and said by this it is helping the forces of disruption.

### Consultations on Crisis

*BK1810161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, has been holding a series of consultations in New Delhi to resolve the crisis on the Ayodhya temple issue. He met the senior BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leaders and also spoke to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, on telephone. Details of the discussions are not available but the All India Radio correspondent understands that Mr. Rama Rao urged the BJP leadership to reconsider its stand and hold discussions with the government to find an amicable settlement. Mr. Rama Rao made the appeal when senior BJP leaders—Mr. Vajpayee, Mr. Jaswant Singh, and the Rajasthan chief minister, Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat—called on him in the hospital in New Delhi where he is convalescing. The union ministers—Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. George Fernandes, and Mr. Anil Shastri—also met Mr. Rama Rao. He underlined the need for restraint by all concerned.

The Bihar chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, also met the BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, and appealed to him to postpone his Rath Yatra [chariot journey to the disputed Ayodhya shrine] in the national interest. Speaking to newsmen, the chief minister said he urged Mr. Advani to help find a solution to the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid issue through a dialogue. Mr. Yadav said his government will not compromise on secularism and will maintain communal harmony at all costs. He said there is already tension in three cities of Bihar and there have been appeals from various organizations to defuse the situation. The Bihar chief minister also met the prime minister and apprised him of the situation in his state. The prime minister told Mr. Yadav to maintain law and order at all costs.

### More Consultations

*BK1910033190 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] In India there has been a new development in the political crisis over the construction of a temple at Ayodhya in the north of the country. Mr Lal Krishan Advani, the leader of the right wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP, has agreed to stay in Delhi for more consultations instead of continuing a campaign to try to drum up support for the building of the temple. The BJP has threatened to withdraw its support from the government because of the controversy over the temple. From Delhi, Mark Tully reports:

[Begin Tully recording] Hours after the BJP Executive Committee had threatened that if work on the temple was not allowed to start on 30 October or if any attempt was made to disrupt Mr. Advani's journey across India, it would withdraw support for the government. [sentence as heard] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, is dependent on the support of the BJP in Parliament for his majority. Mr. Advani told me he was staying back for a day at the request of the prime minister and the communist chief minister of West Bengal, whose party is also supporting the government.

This is the first breakthrough that the government has made, but it remains to be seen how meaningful it is. Mr. Advani was not very optimistic when I spoke to him. He said: If anyone says there is scope for negotiations, I will stay on, but they have been putting proposals to me all day and so far they don't appeal.

The BJP's official position remains that a temple must be built in the town of Ayodhya on a site which it believes is the birthplace of the Hindu god Lord Ram. The government's position remains that a mosque which stands on that site cannot be damaged. There would therefore seem to be very little room for compromise. [end recording]

### Talks Fail

*BK1910091990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] The talks between BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] President Mr. L.K. Advani and the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, over Ayodhya temple issue have failed. Mr. Basu met Mr. Advani over breakfast this morning in New Delhi and tried to reason with him to give up the rath yatra [chariot journey to Hindu-Muslim disputed shrine], but Mr. Advani stuck to his stand. Later, Mr. Advani said he cancelled his Calcutta visit scheduled for today to remain available in Delhi for possible talks to solve the Ramjanam Bhoomi-Babri masjid [disputed shrine] issue at the request of the prime minister. He announced that he will go ahead with his yatra to Ayodhya from Dhanbad in Bihar tomorrow. Approached by newsmen, Mr. Advani stated that BJP is still in favor of a negotiated settlement of the issue and there is need for a discussion with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] leaders also.

Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, has appealed to Mr. Advani to call off his rath yatra and help resolve the sensitive and emotional issue through negotiations in an atmosphere of goodwill and mutual understanding. In a letter to the BJP president, Mr. Yadav said while there can be no two opinions that Ram temple should be built at Ayodhya, no government can afford to act in a discriminatory and partisan manner on religious issues. Mr. Yadav made it clear that if an out-of-court settlement to the issue is not possible, his government will not give up the responsbility of protecting the Babri Masjid [mosque] for which it is constitutionally bound.

Leaders of the four left parties held an emergency meeting in New Delhi this morning to consider the crisis arising out of the rath yatra. Mr. Farooqi of CPI [Communist Party of India], Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjit of CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], Mr Chitta Basu of Forward Bloc and Tridip Chaudhury of RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], who attended the meeting, later met the prime minister and apprised him of their views. Earlier, the Janata Dal leader, Mr. S.R. Bommai; the union ministers, Mr. George Fernandes and Mr. P. Upendra; and the Bihar chief minister, Mr. Laluprasad Yadav, also held separate discussions with Mr. Advani. According to a BJP spokesman, Mr. Advani will be leaving for Dhanbad later this afternoon.

## Singh Summons Leftist Leaders for Consultations

*BK1810160190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] According to a PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] message just received, the West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, enplaned for Delhi today following an urgent summon from the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, in the context of the BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party's] threat to withdraw support to the National Front government. According to the West Bengal chief secretary the prime minister twice rang up Mr. Basu today to discuss the BJP threat.

The All Indian Forward Bloc general secretary, Mr. Chitta Basu, also rushed to Delhi.

## Sikhs Blow Up Military Train, Kill Four

*BK1710160390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1526 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Amritsar, India, Oct 17 (AFP)—Sikh militants blew up a military train carrying tanks in Punjab and opened fire on soldiers trapped in the wreckage, killing four and injuring 15, Army and police sources said Wednesday. The special Army train was en route Tuesday from Jalandhar to the military cantonment town of Ferozepur on the frontier with Pakistan when the engine and nine carriages were derailed by the explosion, the sources said. Sikh gunmen then surrounded the train and opened fire with automatic weapons, killing four soldiers and injuring 15 more trapped in the wreckage, the sources said. The injured were admitted in serious condition at a military hospital in Ferozepur.

Army sources in Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab, said the soldiers were members of the Sixth Guards Mechanised Battalion travelling to the neighbouring northern state of Rajasthan for field exercises. Witnesses said half the train had passed a bridge over a culvert when the remote-controlled high explosives were detonated.

The nine carriages, including those carrying tanks, were totally wrecked, they said. Two tanks were still found submerged in the culvert Wednesday.

Army officials supervising relief operations Wednesday used cranes to lift the wreckage and rescue workers were cutting the damaged carriages piece by piece to rescue those trapped inside.

Journalists who visited the site, 65 kilometres (40 miles) from this Sikh holy city in Punjab, were stopped short of the wreckage and threatened with arrest if they attempted to get nearer.

The attack was the first on a military train reported from Punjab, where Sikh militants are fighting for the creation of a theocratic homeland called Khalistan, or Land of the Pure. The campaign in the northern state has cost some 2,100 lives so far this year.

In a separate incident late Tuesday, Sikh militants fired on a moving passenger train in Batala District, wounding six people, the police said. No details were available.

## 15 People Gunned Down by 'Terrorists' in Punjab

*BK1810152190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] In Punjab, 15 persons have been gunned down in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire near Makhu Railway Station in Ferozepore District, killing four persons and injuring another two last night. In a similar action in Jawaharnagar locality of Amritsar City, terrorists gunned down four persons and injured another four. Elsewhere in the state, terrorists shot down three members of a family in Bholat area of Kapurthala District, two persons in Amritsar District and one each in Bhatinda and Gurdaspur districts.

## Authorities Pursue Secessionist Radio

*BK1710123490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Srinagar, India, Oct 17 (AFP)—Indian authorities are hunting for a clandestine radio station operated by Moslem secessionists broadcasting anti-Indian propaganda in the troubled state of Kashmir.

Listeners in the state capital of Srinagar said the radio, calling itself "Hamara Kashmir" (Our Kashmir), broadcast commentaries on the insurgency and accused Indian security forces of treating civilians brutally.

An announcement by the radio said it will operate "on different frequencies" every Friday with broadcasts in the morning and evening, listeners said.

Official sources said a hunt had been launched to trace the radio station, which observers believe is operated by the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the leading secessionist organisation.

Violence related to the Moslem separatist campaign has left 1,760 people dead so far this year in the Moslem-majority state, whose ownership is the subject of a long-standing dispute and the cause of two wars between India and Pakistan.

### Strike Paralyzes Life in Assam's Hill Districts

*BK1810132290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] In Assam, normal life has been paralyzed in Karbi Anglang District following a call for 108-hour bundh [strike] in hill areas from 0500 this morning. The bundh however evoked no response in the north Cachar hill district. The call for the bundh has been given jointly by the Autonomous State Demand Committee and the Karbi Students Association. They said that the demand of Assam hill people for autonomy has been ignored by the state government and that the center is apathetic to holding tripartite talks on the issue.

### Television, Relay Centers Open in Bihar

*BK1410102890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Oct 90*

[Text] An interim Doordarshan Kendra [television center] has started functioning at Patna in Bihar from yesterday. It was inaugurated by the state chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, in a colorful function. Mr. Yadav later formally inaugurated a 10-kilowatt Doordarshan relay center at Katihar in north Bihar. Speaking on the occasion, the secretary of information and broadcasting, Mr. Suresh Mathur, said Doordarshan will soon cover 90 percent of the people of Bihar. The Patna TV station is telecasting various programs, including a regional news bulletin.

### SAARC Food Security Reserve at 241,000 Tons

*BK1510113190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Oct 90*

[Text] The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] food reserve now stands at over 241,000 tons. According to a press release issued by the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu today, Bangladesh has increased its contribution to the food security reserve from 21,100 tons to 40,000 tons from the current month. The SAARC food security reserve was set up in August last year.

### Ram Das New Navy Chief Effective 30 Nov

*BK1310140190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Oct 90*

[Text] Vice Admiral Ram Das, flag officer commanding in chief, Eastern Naval Command, will be the next naval chief. He will be taking over on the retirement of the present chief of naval staff, Admiral Nadkarni, on the 30th of next month. A specialist in communications, Vice Admiral Ram Das has been decorated with several medals, including the Pram Vishisht Seva Medal, for dedicated service to the Navy, and the Vir Chakra for displaying gallantry during the Indo-Pak conflict in 1971.

## Iran

### Official Denies Sending Food to Iraq

*LD1810170190 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Arak, Central Prov., Oct. 18, IRNA—An Iran-Iraq joint military committee will begin work to mark the previously-defined borders under the supervision of the United Nations Iran Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) in the next two weeks, deputy foreign minister for international affairs announced here today.

Manuchehr Mottaki said that part of the articles of the United Nations Resolution 598 which deals with the settlement of disputes through talks between representatives of the two countries, is on the brink of completion. "Ways for the implementation of the other articles of the resolution including articles 6, 7, and 8 will be followed up by the U.N. secretary general and the Security Council, for which preliminar talks have already begun," Mottaki said.

Mottaki who was speaking to a group of the executive officials of the central province said elsewhere that the end of the Persian Gulf crisis is important for Iran. He said the Islamic Republic has already announced its stances towards the crisis, and that this issue should be settled through a political solution which stipulates the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Categorically refuting rumours on Iran's sending of food aid to Iraq, Mottaki reiterated that Iran is committed to implementation of all the resolutions issued by the U.N. Security Council in this regard. On the establishment of political relations with other countries Mottaki said the Foreign Ministry is bound to all principles of the Islamic revolution in this respect. "We in the Foreign Ministry observe the red line zone regarding the countries with which we should not establish relations," he added.

### Clandestine Reports Arrest of Army Officers

*TA1810192390 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] According to a report, a number of the Airborne Ground Forces officers, four Guards Corps helicopter pilots, 15 army officers and nco's, and some paratroopers were recently detained and arrested for still unknown reasons. The report indicates that two of the arrested officers died in Evin prison from torture.

## Government Order Freezes Karrubi's Bank Deposits

*TA1810192190 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] It is being said in Tehran political circles that, on the government's instruction, these days auditors are checking cases of fraud and embezzlement at the Martyr's Foundation, which operates under the supervision of Mehdi Karrubi. Another report in this connection indicates that, on the government's orders, all of Mehdi Karrubi's bank deposits have been frozen.

## Governments To Release All POW's 'Next Week'

*LD1810121790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Another group of brave POW's will return to the folds of the Islamic homeland. We have a report from our correspondent in Arak:

[Correspondent] Mr. Mottaki, deputy foreign minister for international affairs, announced in Arak: In the very near future, over 230 more, proud, released POW's will be returning to the folds of the Islamic homeland. Mr. Mottaki had travelled to Arak this morning to participate in the Central Province's Administrative Council session, and, in an interview with the Central News Unit, announcing this news, he added: With both sides' agreement and reiteration to exchange all POW's to the last man, next week, under the direct supervision of the International Red Cross Committee, the names of those groups of Iranian and Iraqi POW's who are under judicial investigation in Iran and Iraq, will be announced and will then be granted amnesty by both sides and exchanged. Thus, 230 more released POWs will be returning to their families.

Mr. Mottaki said in connection with that group of POW's who do not wish to return to Iran: The two sides have agreed that consular missions from both parties should talk to those POW's who do not wish to return to their homeland and to prepare the necessary conditions for their return should they wish to do so. He also pointed out: We have also presented to the Iraqi delegation some clear and explicit evidence of the existence of further numbers of Iranian POW's in Iraq and the Iraqi side is due to raise this matter with the officials in Iraq and inform us about the outcome.

## Golpayegani Message on Experts Elections

*NC0710095790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Oct 90*

["Text" of message from Grand Ayatollah Golpayegani to "the noble Muslim Iranian nation on the eve of the second round of elections to the Council of Experts" issued on 6 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The faqihs [jurisconsults] are those who respect themselves, uphold their religion, suppress their desires, and obey the injunctions of their Lord. [preceding sentence in Arabic]

On the auspicious anniversary of the birth of the last of the prophets, His Holiness Muhammad, peace be upon him and his scion, and the joyous anniversary of the birth of His Holiness Imam Ja'far Sadeq, peace be upon him, we greet the Lord of the Ages, may God expedite his holy advent. We also greet Muslims in general and you, the mature Iranian nation, which has emerged victorious from various major ordeals throughout the course of the Islamic revolution. By offering thousands of martyrs and disabled and enduring tribulations and numerous hardships, you have established the system of the Islamic Republic, and you have brought about major Islamic developments and a return to Islam all over the world, the evidence and blessings of which are constantly increasing.

Now that you have reached this present sensitive juncture of the second round of elections to the Council of Experts, it behooves everyone to participate in these elections and thus perform one's obligations in endorsing the system of the Islamic Republic. You should elect individuals who suppress all desires, are obedient to the injunctions of the Lord, and are well versed in the tenets of Islam and the commands of the shari'ah, individuals who reflect on their momentous religious responsibilities and the country's independence. It is hoped that the esteemed experts will first and foremost consider the evoking of divine consent and the interests of Islam and the Muslims, instead of acting on their personal wishes. They should give priority to their religious responsibilities over personal interests or considerations of social status.

At this sensitive juncture, it is the duty of every individual and of all strata of the people under shari'a [Islamic law] to preserve unity and understanding and to refrain from dissent. It is clear that only those who are the enemies of Islam will benefit from discord, especially among the officials and executives, and we all expect the identity of such people to be revealed.

May God Almighty, through the guidance of the eternal imam—may our souls be sacrificed for him—grant success to all the esteemed officials, for this is for the benefit and in the interests of society, of the independence of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and of the greatness of Islam and the Muslims.
[Dated] 6 October 1990
[Signed] Mohammadreza al-Musavi Golpayegani

## Ghanaian Delegation Continues Visit

### Velayati Meets Tsikata

*LD1710204290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Mr. Kojo Tsikata, the deputy leader of Ghana, today in his meeting with Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister, pointed to the forthcoming session of the Nonaligned Movement and recent developments in the world, and called for the Islamic Republic of Iran's guidance on Ghana's active and constructive participation in that meeting.

For his part, Mr. Velayati welcomed the cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Ghana and said: We would like to expand the activities of the Construction Jihad in Ghana. The exchange of experience with the country of Ghana, which is of utmost importance, should also expand. Mr. Velayati pointed to the current international situation and the crisis in the Persian Gulf and said: The session of the Nonaligned [Movement] is of particular importance and the two countries should adopt common stances.

### Joint Communique Released

*LD1710203190 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—A joint communique was issued here today at the conclusion of member of Ghana's Provisional National Defence Council Kojo Tsikata's 4-day visit to the Islamic Republic. The two countries expressed satisfaction at the existing bilateral relations and indicated that cooperation should develop in all spheres, political, cultural and economic.

It was also agreed to convene the inaugural session of the Iran-Ghana joint commission for economic, technical, scientific and cultural cooperation in Accra towards the end of 1990. The Ghanian side welcomed the recent "restoration of normal ties" between the Islamic Republic and Iraq following Baghdad's re-acceptance of the 1975 border accord last August.

However, both sides condemned the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait but at the same time emphasized that "foreign forces should withdraw from the Persian Gulf region" so as to allow regional states to find an "immediate peaceful solution" for the crisis in the region. The two also called for an "immediate end to the apartheid system and the establishment of majority rule in South Africa."

The communique underlined "firm support" for the Palestinian struggle against the illegal Zionist regime, and strongly denounced "the crimes against the oppressed Palestinian people." It also voiced support for the Afghan peoples struggle for independence and unity.

Iran and Ghana reaffirmed support for the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] and pledged to cooperate together to ensure a successful convening of the next NAM summit conference to be held in Accra in 1991. Tsikata expressed thanks to the government and people of the Islamic Republic for the "warm hospitality" accorded to his delegation.

## Yemeni Parliamentary Delegation Visits

### Velayati Receives Hakimi

*LD1710202190 Tehran IRNA in English 1413 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Vice speaker of Yemen's parliament Sa'id al-Hakimi announced his country's desire to expand ties with the Islamic Republic in various fields, in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday [17 October].

Al-Hakimi, who arrived here on October 15 also reiterated Yemen's demand for withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Persian Gulf. Velayati in response referred to the historical ties shared by the two Muslim countries, and called for promotion of ties. He also briefed al-Hakimi on Iran's stance on the Persian Gulf crisis.

### Delegation Leaves for Home

*NC1910074090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Mr. Sa'id al-Hakimi, the deputy speaker of the Republic of Yemen who led a delegation to our country, left Tehran this morning. Prior to his departure, the deputy speaker spoke to our correspondent and termed the results of the Yemeni parliamentary delegation's trip as positive. He said: In talks with the Iranian officials, topics of mutual interest, the Persian Gulf crisis, and regional issues in general were discussed and reviewed. During these meetings, the experiment of the unification of Yemen and the benefits accruing from it were explained to the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Provinces Sign Agreement With Soviet Turkmenia

*LD1710203590 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Sari (Mazandaran), Oct. 17, IRNA—The Soviet Republic of Turkmenia has signed a leter of understanding with the bordering Iranian provinces of Khorassan and Mazandaran in Ashkhabad for expansion of scientific, technical and cultural relations. Mazandaran governor-general Esmail Mofidi who led a delegation to Turkmenia last Friday, told IRNA today that the two sides also agreed to set up trade centres in the Iranian cities of Mashhad and Sari and the Turkmenian capital Ashkhabad.

Common markets will also be set up on Turkmenia's borders with Khorassan and Mazandaran as part of efforts to expand the volume of trade exchanges. The possibility of the opening of consulates in the cites of Sari and Ashkhabad was also reviewed with Turkmenian officials, Mofidi said.

He said the letter of understanding also covers cooperation in the setting up of agro industries, construction material plants and water installations, exchanging technical knowhow, expansion of tourism, and holding of trade and agro-industrial fairs. During its 5-day tour of

Turkmenia the 28-man Iranian delegation inspected scientific, research, industrial and religious centers of the region.

The region known as Turkmenia today fell under Russian rule in the closing years of the last century. It is made up of parts of historical Khwarezm and Greater Khorassan with deep rooted religious and cultural ties to Iran dating back to antiquity.

### Irish Minister Urges Increased Ties With EEC

*LD1310174490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Oct 90*

[Text] Ireland, as a member-state of the European Economic Community, has once again called for expanded relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EEC.

In his meeting with our country's ambassador to Dublin last night, the Irish foreign minister referred to the recent crisis in the Persian Gulf and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has attained a special importance in the region, specifically with regard to the problems of the Persian Gulf, Palestine, and the Middle East.

A report from the Central News Unit, meanwhile, states that following Iran's positive response to Ireland's wish, the new ambassador of Ireland to the Islamic Republic of Iran arrived in Tehran this morning.

### Attack on U.S. Soldiers in Istanbul Viewed

*NC1810213790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Station commentary]

[Text] The manner in which the attack on U.S. soldiers occurred in the noble Islamic city of Istanbul on Tuesday [16 October] shows that it was a spontaneous assault that expressed the pent-up resentment Islamic peoples feel toward the U.S. forces as a result of the hostile stands adopted by successive U.S. administrations vis-a-vis Islamic presence in general. The attack was limited to beating up U.S. soldiers, hurling stones at them, and shouting angry slogans at them. It did not involve anything that showed that it was an organized assault planned in advance. This refutes claims by some Turkish leftist organizations that they were responsible for planning the attack.

Doubtless, one of the most important factors releasing pent-up Islamic resentment against the United States is the extensive U.S. military intervention following Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in the territories which contain the most sacred Islamic divine sanctuaries. The U.S. forces also blatantly defied Muslim sentiments by holding immoral parties in the holy lands. It was this grave defiance of general Islamic feelings that heightened the pent-up Islamic resentment against the United States: The presence of crusader forces on that sacred territory in addition to their immoral parties and similar practices.

Faced with this, every Muslim finds that one of his basic duties and responsibilities to preserve his dignity is to do what he can to end this direct crusader occupation of the heart of the Islamic world.

It is true that there are some views that say that confronting this hateful U.S. occupation means entering a political game in which some of the players seek to exploit the Islamic factor for their own political ambitions without actually being concerned with what happens to Islam and the Muslims.

It is also true, however, that the threat posed by the U.S. intervention has reached a very serious point. This threat now involves all Muslims, their dignity, and values. It has, in actual practice, passed the point where one can avoid taking a stand on it. It is necessary indeed for the Islamists who are confronting and rejecting—in actual practice—the U.S. occupation of the heart of the Islamic world to be vigilant and not fall into the trap of that hateful political game. They must reject aggression against Islam, the Muslims, and their dignity and the threats to their sanctities regardless of the source of the aggression and threat.

### Ansari-Fard Commentary Analyzes Gulf Crisis

*NC1110194590 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Sep 90 pp 20, 2*

[Hoseyn Ansari-Fard commentary: "Some Observations on the Persian Gulf Crisis"]

[Text] The fruit of the years of resistance and devotion by the Muslim people of Iran and the acceptance of their just demands by Iraq is an extremely important development in Iran-Iraq relations and in regional calculations.

This development comes at a time when the strategic Persian Gulf is facing a major crisis. There is no doubt that the developments in Iran-Iraq relations and in the Persian Gulf crisis are of vital importance to the Islamic Republic. Therefore, it is important to study why Iraq accepted Iran's just demands and to look at other elements that have had an impact on the Persian Gulf crisis.

A. The following can be regarded as the most important factors that influenced Iraq's decision:

1. Iraq's realization that the Islamic Republic of Iran is invincible and an indisputed power in the region;
2. Increased pressure from the West's economic and military blockade against Iraq and Baghdad's urgent need to find a passage or at least a neutral outlet on its border with Iran;
3. Iraq's desire to play games with the West and its puppets in the region;
4. Iraq's efforts to divert the Iranian people's anti-Saddam feelings toward its number one enemy—that is, America—and, as a result, expand the anti-Western front in the region;
5. Iraq's need to gain the support of strong Islamic fundamentalist groups in the Islamic world in order to help it in confronting America.

6. Baghdad's hope, albeit faint, of indirect assistance from Iran to mitigate the pressures stemming from the West's economic and oil sanctions.

7. Iraq's possible plans to use its released prisoners of war as an expert force in a possible combat with America;

8. Iraq's hopes of persuading Iran to work to avert a war in the region because the processes of POW exchanges and of peace with Iraq would be jeopardized;

9. Iraq's efforts to boost its people's morale and to reduce the people's fears of a possible bloody war with America by giving them the priceless gift of POW's returning to their families;

10. Iraq's efforts to transform its confrontation with the West into a confrontation between the Islamic world and the West and, as a result, to set up barricades before an American military attack.

B. Factors of importance in the Persian Gulf crisis:

1. Saddam is a genuine Kufic with all the special characteristics of someone who comes from al-Kufah, notably his desire for domination and especially his unreliability;

2. The Saddamist regime's continued occupation of Kuwait is in no way in our interests (especially in the long run);

3. The Persian Gulf crisis apparently stems from a fundamental change in Iraq's relations with the West after the establishment of the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war. The West's forecasts were proven wrong. The West had calculated that, in order to make Iran accept UN Resolution 598, Iraq would have to use almost all the deadly weapons given to it by the East and the West, especially the long-range missiles with chemical warheads, which would in turn would create a situation whereby Iran would have to spend years healing its deep economic wounds and Iraq's arsenals would be emptied of all the deadly strategic weapons, thereby making Israel the undisputed power. The inspiring decision of the imam to accept the cease-fire, which was made so quickly and which caught almost everyone by surprise, upset all the West's calculations. Suddenly the West found itself face to face with a snake in the grass named Iraq. The West's longstanding policies on the Middle East and on preserving Israel's invulnerable position called for efforts to weaken Iraq militarily and economically.

The West's haste in implementing this policy roused Iraq's suspicion and alarm toward the West and the reactionary countries in the region. The hasty reduction in financial and even political assistance to Iraq from the West and its puppets in the region, and especially the pressures inflicted on Iraq's economy because of the continuous drop in oil prices, made the Baghdad leaders panic. This panic eventually resulted in Iraq's insane military attack on Kuwait.

4. Various factors, including the form of Iraq's propaganda and some aspects of the nature of its confrontation with the West, have given rise to a new wave of Arab nationalism in Islamic countries. It is highly possible that Western arrogance will try to exploit this in order to overshadow the emergence of Islamic fundamentalism in Islamic countries as well as in the West because experience has taught them that confronting a struggle based on nationalism is much easier than confronting a dynamic and comprehensive school of thought which considers its struggle against arrogance to be an eternal one.

At the current juncture in the struggle of the Muslim and oppressed masses against world arrogance, the flames of which have spread to almost all Islamic and most Third World countries, the growth of a weed known as Arab nationalism in the garden of Islamic fundamentalism will weaken the struggle of the fundamentalists against Western arrogance.

5. World arrogance will undoubtedly use every opportunity to try to portray Iran to the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf as a country similar to Iraq with an aggressive character and the intention of disrupting 20th century civilization, and while preventing Iran from taking advantage of the regional developments, it will encourage the Arab regimes of the Persian Gulf to carry out more reckless cooperation with America.

6. The stands of regional reactionary regimes in no way conform with the sentiments of the masses in these countries, and the failure of these regimes to organize sham demonstrations to welcome foreign forces in the region or even to condemn Iraq's occupation of Kuwait is extremely meaningful.

7. The vast presence of foreign forces in the region, especially in a country where the holiest of Islamic shrines are located, has wounded the feelings and the Islamic pride of the Muslim masses and has made them contemptuous. Thus, any effort to heal this wound will be welcomed by the people.

8. World arrogance will probably try to create a complex situation and attempt to convince the Muslim masses, especially the Arabs, that Persian Iran does not oppose the annihilation of Arabic Iraq by the West.

9. The extremely sagacious and alert stands adopted by the leaders of the Islamic Republic on the developments in the Persian Gulf crisis have consolidated the true independence of the Islamic Republic of Iran among the Muslim masses in Islamic countries as well as among the oppressed masses in the non-Islamic countries of the Third World. This will definitely increase the popularity of this system among them.

The stand adopted by the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, esteemed leader of the revolution, has been such that the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently acting as the strong spokesman for the Islamic world.

10. Because of its Shiite majority and its large number of ethnic Iranians and also because of numerous cultural and historic factors, Iraq is a very suitable potential

cradle for the expansion of the Islamic revolution, and any type of American occupation of Iraq and the establishment of a puppet regime will mean Western arrogance's full control over oil supplies and increased possibilities for exerting pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

11. Iraq's surrender to the Islamic Republic of Iran has undoubtedly sparked off a wave of concern in Western capitals. It is possible that in order to confront this problem, they will place part of the burden of the Persian Gulf crisis on Iran's shoulders and not allow Iran to emerge as the victor or be able to act to solve its difficulties.

### Paper Urges Germany To Complete Bushehr Reactor

*LD1810182190 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—A morning daily Thursday deplored that failure of the German government to fulfill its commitments toward Iran with respect to Bushehr nuclear reactor, "will have negative impacts on the two countries long-run trade ties." The English-language 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said that the now half-built Bushehr nuclear plant with a total capacity of 1,200 megawatts of electricity had to be completed in 1981 and so far Iran has paid the German contractor U.S. dollars four billion.

The editorial stressed that Iran, a signatory to the non-proliferation treaty, "will never violate international agreements on the peaceful application of nuclear energy." For this reason, the daily added, Tehran did not forget its commitments towards the 1925 Geneva accord banning chemical arms.

"The whole world knows that although the Islamic Republic of Iran suffered heavily due to the toxic weapons used by Iraqi forces against Iranian civilians and troops, yet Iranian forces never deployed poison gases in the course of the eight year Iran-Iraq War," the article noted. Therefore, it added, German government should understand that Tehran has no desire of making any kind of "weapons of mass destruction."

"It is not a correct policy for Bonn to endanger its historical relations with such a politically and economically strategic country as Iran over the provisions of a simple contract," concluded the daily.

### Editorial Views Relations With Britain

*NC1310193790 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 1 Oct 90 pp 1, 2*

[Editorial: "Some Observations on the Resumption of Relations With Britain"]

[Excerpts] Following last week's meeting between the British and Iranian foreign ministers in New York, it was officially announced that relations between the two countries are being resumed. [passage omitted]

Until now the London government has either not wanted to or been able to adopt a stable and specific policy toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. Because of this, during the past 12 years its relations with Islamic Iran have been severed for a total of nine years. In other words, relations between Iran and Britain have been in abeyance 80 percent of the time since the Islamic Revolution, and during the rest of the time Briain has not had a specific and certain policy on Iran.

It is necessary to emphasize this point because by taking this point into consideration the officials of the system, the decision-making centers, and specifically the Ministry of Foreign Affairs can better regulate relations between Iran and Britain. Naturally, they should always remember that the British cannot be trusted. This is why relations between the two countries and specifically Britain's behavior toward the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran should continue to be looked at with a magnifying glass so that every single detail can be seen clearly. [passage omitted]

London's officials have never tried to show any type of goodwill toward the Islamic Republic, and though they have been harmed because of this behavior, they did not show the least interest in making amends for their wrong policies.

This has never meant that Britain does not need relations with Iran. Yes, relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Britain have been in abeyance for nine years out of the 12 years since the revolution. But parallel with this—that is, during these nine years—the British have done what they could to reestablish relations with Tehran. They have regularly sent messages and requests. They have sent goodwill missions. They have expressed regret for their past policies and have asked for an opportunity to prove their goodwill. But each time they have been granted an opportunity, they have repeated their past policies. On the whole, the British officials are like a stupid and undisciplined child who is constantly failing in ethics, discipline, and lessons, and who is finally promoted to a higher grade after promising to improve but who continues to repeat the same mistakes and behavior. [passage omitted]

The irritating Salman Rushdie affair and London's despicable approach was extremely surprising but meaningful. Not only did Britain show malice against the world of Islam and one billion Muslims, but it tried to blindfold the EEC members and to tie them behind its bandwagon and make them an "accomplice" in its crime. Of course, many of the EEC members realized the truth very soon and distanced themselves from the British adventurists. [passage omitted]

The imam's historic edict against Rushdie continues to be valid and Islamic Iran has not retreated even a single step on this. It was Britain which faced disappointment and was pushed into absolute isolation, and had to retreat because of its own wrong policies. The retreat and historic defeat of Britain and of the world of arrogance was a great political-ideological victory for the world of Islam and for the Islamic Republic of Iran. The credit must go to the late imam.

However, granting London a chance to prove its goodwill means giving a concession to the disillusioned Britons. The Britons should realize the true value of such an opportunity and demostrate their goodwill by granting a concession to the Islamic Republic of Iran and thus prove that they are truly seeking to make up for past mistakes and to lay the foundations for sound relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The people of Iran continue to regard Britain and its policy with suspicion. Naturally these people have the right to scrutinize carefully Britain's behavior at this stage too so that they can prevent any possible abuse by the British officials. Britain, with its bankrupt economy and a trade deficit of over 20 billion pounds, is thinking of new markets so that it can make up, as well as possible, for all the deficit and for the drop in exports to the oil-rich area because of the current crisis.

Even though economic relations between Iran and Britain were maintained to an extent even when relations were severed, and British exports to Iran stand at about $500 million now, the British Government regards Iran as a stable country and a profitable market and hopes that it will be able to earn income from it. The British Government has been under immense pressure from British businessmen and companies to resume ties with Iran, but it has now been released from these pressures by having seized the new opportunity to establish relations with Iran.

It is now time for the British Government to give concessions, as it is time for the Iranian authorities, the policy- and decision-making centers, and the Foreign Ministry to act vigilantly and cautiously in order to get serious and worthwhile concessions from Britain and to bear in mind the basic point that Britain today is longing for ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and is thinking of what these ties will bring.

## *RESALAT Reports on 5 Sep 90 Majles Debates

*90AS0448A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Sep 90 p 5*

[Text]

**Report of Yesterday's Open Session of the Islamic Consultative Majles Legal and Majles Division:** The Majles held an open session yesterday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. During this session the Malayer representative, the representative of the Zoroastrian minority, and the Kashmar representative spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then, the Majles session was called to order.

The following is the text of the remarks by the pre-agenda speakers and details of the discussions:

### Seyyed Kazem Mirvalad, the Representative of the People of Malayer: Combatants' Sacrifices, Martyrs' Blood, and Their Families' Steadfastness Was Finally Rewarded by the POW's Freedom

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Mirvalad from the Malayer constituency. While praising the sacred spirit of the imam of the nation, may his spirit go to heaven, and the exalted leadership, in regard to the freedom of the heroic POW's he said:

At last, the sacrifices and selflessness of the dear combatants bore its fruit. The sacred blood of the exalted martyrs, the patience and perseverance of their honorable families, the resistance and strength of the POW's, and implementation of correct and calculated policies by the government—wholly under the prophet-like leadership of our late imam and the imam-like guidance of our exalted and great leader in continuation of the path of the imam—put the aggressor enemy in a position to concede defeat by accepting full peace conditions set forth by Iran.

The enemy finally withdrew its forces behind the recognized international boarders in accordance with the 1975 treaty and, also, freed our imprisoned POW's. The turn of events in the world have been such that Iraq has been recognized and exposed as the aggressor. It has been such that all the supporters of the aggressor—who are now burning in the same fire they set themselves—have confessed to having supported the transgressor and participation in the act of aggression.

The shame of the regimes of Hijaz [Saudi Arabia], Egypt, Jordan, and others throughout the world has resulted in clarification of the innocence of our sacred Islamic Revolution—the sacred revolution which has always been at the forefront of values in the world and their defense—during the imposed war.

Nowadays, the important point for the Majles, the government, and all others involved is utilization of the dear freed POW's in key posts suitable to their characters and talents. These dear ones, mostly, have put behind them several years of the constructive period while maintaining the original values. Today, they are prepared to infuse a new blood into the national executive and decision-making body. They are most welcome and we hold their arrival dear.

The speaker then referred to the Persian Gulf crisis and said: Today's world problem is the obvious transgressions in the Persian Gulf which have turned this region into the most critical spot in the world. Transgression and aggression have been molded in the minds and thoughts of the players of this conspiracy and the creators of this crisis. What is clear is that Iraq's transgression against Kuwait has agitated the involuntary servants of America in the region—such as the ruling regime of Hijaz—and has caused the impudent arrival of the criminal America into the area.

America, the present century's mother of corruptions, has militarily occupied Hijaz and blatantly set foot into the southern Persian Gulf states. America, whose foul memory of its transgressions against Granada, Panama, and Vietnam has not yet been forgotten, its military transgression against Islamic Iran in the Tabas desert is still fresh in memories, its beastly attacks on Iranian oil tankers and an Iranian passenger plane are not forgotten and the bitter memory of its persistent support for the aggressors of the region, Israel and Iraq, disgusts everyone, has now come to the region under the guise of defending Saudi Arabia and preventing transgressions.

America has come in order to make its threat against Islam more serious. By causing fear among the cowardly rulers of the region, America aims to better rob their wealth and press its boots against the world's oil throat in order to continue its global hooliganism.

Concerning the ever increasing cooperation and partnership between the government and the Majles, the Malayer representative remarked: Today the esteemed government's evaluation, headed by a combatant jurist and clever thinker, and the evaluation of the esteemed Majles, which is composed of the nation's most specialized scientific, religious, and technical forces, is the government actions' conformity to the Five-Year Plan and the Majles' qualitative and quantitative supervision of the implementation of the plan by the government. Nowadays, the government needs, more than ever before, the sincere assistance of the Majles, a task which has never been neglected by the Majles.

As the exalted leader stated, implementation of the Five-Year Plan is a merit which, as far as this humble person is concerned, the covenant between the Majles and the government concerns the precise, sincere, and prudent implementation of this plan. The government's failure to implement it and the Majles' failure to supervise its implementation will be against all values.

Naturally, there may be some difficulties and problems in the ratified plan. However, through the friendly cooperation of the Majles and the government and by way of the mechanism which has been built into the plan, difficulties may be overcome and the path for implementation may be cleared. In any event, the best standards for evaluation of various sections—such as economic, cultural, social, and reconstruction—are the qualitative and quantitative objectives of the plan which are already in the hands of the esteemed deputies.

The need for serious work by various commissions or other working groups is clearly being felt. Also, the esteemed president in one of his speeches made before the Majles stated this as a request from the Majles. He also considered it as a way to support the government. Indeed, his assertion in this regard is a correct and deep one. Also, the best standard and measure for the Majles' evaluation is the level of precise supervision, expertise, and presenting solutions and legal clarifications for implementation of the plan by the government and this is something that we desperately need.

In conclusion, he made some remarks concerning his electoral constituency as follows:

(a) I welcome the auspicious arrival of the dear POW's and I am proud to be blessed with the opportunity to serve them today. (b) I remind the Agriculture Ministry to expedite the provision of the special oil for green raisins, which is the single most important export of Malayer city region. (c) I remind the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education to expedite approval for the inauguration of the Petrochemical Collage of Malayer, which most of its work has been concluded, so that students can attend their classes as of the first of Mehr [22 September]. (d) I remind the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance to demonstrate more effort to inaugurate the library and cultural complex in Malayer. (e) I thank the esteemed minister of petroleum and his colleagues for their efforts regarding implementation of plans for Hamadan Province, their presence in the province and Malayer city region and announcing the start of construction of the Malayer Petrochemical Collage.

### Aflatun Ziafat, the Representative of the Zoroastrian minority: The Iranian Zoroastrians, Who for Eight Years Took Part in the Defense of Iran, Will Be Standing by the Rest of the Nation During the Time of Peace and Rehabilitation

Mr. Ziafat, the representative of the Zoroastrian minority, was the second pre-agenda speaker. In his remarks, he welcomed the proud and heroic POW's who have been released and then said:

As the representative of the Zoroastrians of Iran in the third Majles,I am proud to once more declare the loyalty and solidarity of Iran and the world Zoroastrians with the honorable and combatant people of Iran and renew the covenant with the exalted leadership.

Though separated from Iran by centuries and miles of distance between them and Iran, still the Parsees of India consider Iran as their motherland and while praying face toward Iran. They pray for the ever-increasing success of the God-seeking and powerful officials of the country in defense of the frontiers of the brave nation and also pray that Iran be saved from the harm of enemies and evil-wishers.

The history, culture, and civilization of the great land of Iran are filled with ups and downs which, the explanation of each requires much time and expansive research. The history of this suffering land has been smeared in blood. It is this blood that nurtures the fields of history and creates epics of honor and pride for Iran and Iranians.

The fact that the history of this ancient land of Iran has extended into eternity and our culture and civilization have been the cause of pride has been due to others—beside the brave soldiers, combatants, commanders, and heroes—who courageously guarded the inheritance of our ancestors with different tools. These were pens and intellects that are intertwined with culture. Iranian scientists, poets, and writers such as Abu-Reyhan Biruni, Abu-'Ali Sina, Hafez, Ferdowsi, Mowlana, and others who ensured the constancy of this ancient land and waved science and knowledge as pride-inducing banners atop the highest peaks of victory. They have been the most valuable protectors of Iranian history.

In connection with discovery of big historical artifacts smuggling, he said: Preventing the smuggling of historical artifacts by the esteemed Information Ministry is indicative of the gravity of the matter. This preventative move is truly worthy of praise. Ancient artifacts are the cultural inheritance of the past for future generations. They are also indications of the past history of each nation and the guiding light for future generations. They are mirrors reflecting the past history of each nation.

Those who treat these documents and artifacts as commercial goods and wish to profit personally by plundering them must be considered robbers of national culture. What disgraceful shame it is for the foolish who display their valuable historical documents in museums and private collections of other countries and they, themselves, are deprived from them. Our self-sacrificing people have shown, under various circumstances, that they are the principal supporters and concerned and loyal friends of this revolution and, whensoever the need is felt, they will come on the scene with all their capabilities and engage in the safeguarding of the achievements of the Revolution.

Continuing his speech, concerning the great victory of the heroic Iranian nation, Mr. Ziafat noted: Iraq's positive answer to all the legitimate wishes of the Islamic Republic of Iran was in fact the result of the self-sacrifices, resistance, and tolerating eight years of tragedy, which the nation suffered and rose heroically to ensure its independence and national sovereignty and was not afraid of any power.

A review of the objectives of Iraq's aggression and the wide dimensions of this imposed war reveals the extent of the conspiracy and the line up of the arrogant powers and reactionary forces of the region. No doubt the pivotal role, the command and wise leadership of the great late leader of the Revolution, the guidance of the exalted leadership of the Islamic Republic, the decisiveness and statesmanship of the esteemed Majles speaker, the esteemed president, the judiciary, and other members of the leadership must not be forgotten in realization of this victory. The most attention must be paid to the exalted families of the martyrs and war casualties, the freed POW's and the disabled. Here, once again, the Iranian culture of farsightedness, perseverance, and patience takes shape and guarantees the continuity, pride, and existence of Iran.

In another part of his speech, the speaker noted other characteristics of Iranians throughout history, such as self-control and forbearance in dealing with calamities, and said: The lack of racial prejudice, generosity and giving asylum to those who are subject to injustice and refugees, good treatment of captives and defeated enemies are among the other special characteristics of Iranians throughout history.

In regard to the duties of Zoroastrians during peace time, the representative of the Zoroastrian minority emphasized:

Iranian Zoroastrians, who in eight years of defense took part in safeguarding this land along with members of all the other national strata, also today, in the era of reconstruction and peace will be beside every member of this nation. While proud to have been part of the cultural, charity, rehabilitation, and reconstruction service in many cities and rural centers across the country and having taken great strides in these regards—ranging from building schools, dispensaries, and hospitals—it is known to everyone that, in the future, Zoroastrians, with their services, will have shares in the country's higher education. The Zoroastrians of Iran and the world have realized that, in the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, they have been and always will be the beneficiaries of the kind attention of the regime's leaders and executive officials.

He also emphasized: Religious minorities in the country are happy and jubilant that in the governmental regime of the Islamic Republic they are once again realizing the rule of justice and fairness, brotherhood and equality, and their long lost rights.

Securing the rights of religious minorities in the country in the areas of culture, education, jobs, employment, etc., in accordance with ratified principals 20 and 28 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the protection of their rights should be the subject of more attention by the executive officials of the country.

Mr. Ziafat also extended his appreciation and thanks to the interior minister and members of the commission for Article 10 of the Law of Political Parties in connection with the issuance of permits allowing Zoroastrian organizations and societies to function.

In conclusion, he recited a paragraph from the historic message of His Eminence the Imam, may his spirit go to heaven, on the occasion of the inauguration of the first Majles.

### Ahmad Bolukian, the Representative of the People of Kashmar: Today, the Incompetence of the Al Sa'ud Family in Administering the Two Holy Shrines Is Well Evident to the Islamic Nation

The third and last pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Bolukian, from the Kashmar constituency. He praised the sacred spirit of the imam, God's mercy be upon him, and the exalted leadership and offered his condolences on the sad occasion of the passing of the great Shiite source of emulation, Grand Ayatollah Mar'ashi-Najafi. In continuation he said:

The sacred regime of the Islamic Republic is the fruit of the sacred blood of martyrs which has been spilt since 1341 [21 March 1962-20 March 1963] for the sake of Islam and God. It is the fruit of the blessed life our esteemed imam and, also, the result of endeavors of all the crusaders of the cause of God.

Legitimate freedom in the divine system is known to all and the people enjoy life with full freedom under the Islamic Republic regime. How amazing and bitter is the innuendoes of ignoble persons about this freedom and security.

While thanking the popular president and the cabinet for their efforts, the speaker said: I offer my appreciation and thanks to the great teacher, the esteemed scholar, the loyal-to-the-leader and the popular president, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his capable government. May God send his ever-increasing blessings upon this government.

He then referred to Iraq's military aggression and America's presence in Saudi Arabia and said: In our view, Iraq's transgression in Kuwait is condemned the same as America's presence in Arabia. They both are enemies of freedom and humanity and are among the misguided of history. They are the enemies of mankind and the obstructers of man's rights.

The incompetent rulers of Arabia have now put on display for others what was known to us. The Islamic nation, once again, can well observe the incompetence of the Al Sa'ud family in administering the two holy shrines.

He then stated some matters concerning his constituency as follows:

1. A memo to the group responsible for reconstruction and facilitating the schools in Khorasan Province to exchange accords with the Khorasan Plan and Budget Organization to implement plans concerning education and training.

2. A memo to the Plan and Budget Organization to study and initiate the construction of Kashmar's 96-bed hospital.

3. A memo to the responsible officials concerning assistance for the purchase of feed needed by the tribes.

4. Review and serious consideration regarding civil servant salaries in order to resolve their salary problems.

5. A memo to the Ministry of Roads and Transportation to widen the Kashmar road up to Shad-Mehr fork and, also, to construct the Sabzevar-Bejestan road.

6. Thanking the esteemed chief of the judiciary for his decisiveness and speedy investigation of cases.

7. Called on the martyr-nurturing nation to participate in the elections of the Assembly of Experts.

### Details of the Discussions

During yesterday's open session of the Majles, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan, the generalities of the plan for Agricultural Water Price Control was ratified.

According to Article One of this plan, as of the date of ratification of this law, fees for water utilized by farmers and growers—considering the allocation priorities for strategic products—is as follows:

1. The average water fees for water from modern networks shall be three percent of the value of the farmed product.

2. The average water fees for water from composite canals shall be two percent of the value of the farmed product.

3. The average water fees for water from traditional canals shall be one percent of the value of the farmed product.

According to this report, the second item on the agenda was the Plan and Budget Commission's report in regard to the plan for interpretation of Note 13 of the National Budget Law for the year 69 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], the generalities of which were ratified.

The third item on the agenda was the report by the Labor and Social Affairs Commission in regard to the Unemployment Insurance Bill, the generalities of which were passed by the deputies.

It must be noted that the single-urgency provision of this bill was passed on 15 July 90.

The fourth item on the agenda was the legal plan for "the method of creation of adequate facilities in order to expedite the construction and completion of hospitals in 96 cities across the country." A double-urgency provision was requested for this plan which, after remarks by opponents and proponents, voting was conducted and the double-urgency provision was ratified.

The last item on the agenda was the question of a number of deputies from Mr. Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum, which was read by Mr. Rashidiyan.

### Remarks by One of the Questioning Deputies

After thanking the minister of petroleum, Mr. Rashidiyan stated: According to the information received, a large quantity of oil pipes (thousands of tons) belonging to the Petroleum Ministry were sold without legal authorization by Mr. Nuri, the friday prayer leader of Masjed-e Soleyman, through contractors or dealers. These pipes were shipped out of the region and sold in the market. Huge sums gained from the sale of these pipes were diverted to the special accounts of a person or persons. This act has caused questions to be raised and has resulted in sensitivities—especially since he has issued a statement claiming that some of the said sums have been spent on various projects. Such a move, by itself, is being questioned.

Therefore, since the spending of government funds by individuals in an arbitrary fashion, without any regard for the law and outside of governmental organizations results in political, economic, and social status and positions which may result in corruption—for instance, may severely and adversely affect the political and social situation of the region and the province and weaken the rule of law and governmental organizations which are responsible for organizing regional affairs in the framework of the Islamic Republic regime's policies and other corollaries which will not fit in this brief—it is required of the esteemed minister of petroleum to provide answers to the following questions:

1. What was the quantity of pipes which Mr. Nuri, the Friday prayer leader of Masjed-e Soleyman, collected and sold—through a contractor—from the Masjed-e Soleyman pipeline?

2. How much was gained from the sale of these pipes?

3. In what areas and for what purposes were these sums spent by Mr. Nuri, the friday prayer leader of Masjed-e Soleyman? How much of these funds are still available and in what account are they being kept?

4. If the collection of the pipes and their sale—per your statements to the commission—has been without authorization from the Petroleum Ministry and against the law, what legal actions have you taken to recover the public properties, compensate for losses, and transfer/fire the guilty individuals? In what legal phase is your investigation?

5. Based on your detailed explanations made to the Petroleum Commission, the collection, removal from the region, sale of the pipes in the market, and spending the money in various ways—as stated in the list put out by Mr. Nuri—has been without the authorization of the Petroleum Ministry. What action has the Petroleum Ministry taken to confront the wrong-doers?

6. A check for the amount of 65 million tomans (as stated by Mr. Nuri himself) as proceeds from the sale of the pipes was issued by Mr. Nuri to the order of the Petroleum Ministry, in order to return the sums gained from the sale of the pipes. After sending this check to the bank to be cashed, it was revealed that there were not adequate funds to cover the amount and the check had been overdraft. What action has the Petroleum Ministry taken to confront this illegal act (in view of the Law of Punishments for Issuing Overdraft Checks).

7. What measures have been implemented by the Petroleum Ministry in order to prevent the recurrence of such illegal and sacrilegious activities and possession of public properties?

### The Petroleum Minister's Response

In response to remarks by Mr. Rashidiyan, Mr. Aqazadeh stated: The subject of the Masjed-e Soleyman pipes goes back to several years ago. During the previous Majles, in a meeting, Mr. Nuri requested that underground pipes which are obsolete and are not used any more be dug up and used for the reconstruction efforts of Masjed-e Soleyman. At that time, we told Mr. Nuri that this matter involves a legal procedure and it must go through the legal motions. If the necessary authorizations are obtained, then something can be done.

In my view, the mistake that was made at this time was that before completion of the legal phase, the work was done and some of the obsolete pipes that had been rendered out of circulation were sold for, as stated by him, about 65 million tomans. After this, I contacted Mr. Nuri and told him that this should have gone through the prescribed legal channels. In turn, he gave the total sum in a check to Mr. Maqsadi. As you know, the chairman of the oil company complex at that time was Mr. Maqsadi.

A meeting of the complex in connection with this matter was held. The oil company complex composed a set of guidelines to spend this money, a check for which had been issued by Mr. Nuri. The content of the approved resolution was that all the money be put at the disposal of the governor-general of Khuzestan and the manager of the oil-producing region to be spent on reconstruction activities in the region. In addition, the complex accepted to consider Mr. Nuri's action to be considered on behalf of the oil company, and I so informed Mr. Nuri.

He added: In this connection, we asked the governor-general to give us a bank account for the provincial administration to which the check could be deposited. After the account number was determined, we attempted to receive the check which was given to Mr. Musavi by Mr. Nuri. The bulk of the issue surfaced when we went to the bank and realized that the check had bounced. There was no money in the account. We then went back to Mr. Nuri and told him to deposit money in the account so that the check could be cashed.

Continuing, Mr. Aqazadeh said: In a meeting with Mr. Nuri, we told him to deposit the check in the provincial administration account as soon as possible and he accepted to do so. Following this development, I received a letter from the governor-general of Khuzestan stating that, officially, the money has been received and, as far as he was concerned, the matter had been resolved. However, regretfully, after a while he wrote me another letter stating that the money has not been received yet. As a result, in a letter, I informed the judiciary. Also, before coming here, I asked the manager of the oil producing region and he informed me that Mr. Nuri has just returned from a trip and has agreed to pay the money.

### Additional Remarks by the Questioner

In his additional remarks, Mr. Rashidiyan stated: Regretfully, Mr. Aqazadeh did not answer the question about the quantity of these pipes.

He added: Dear brother, Your Excellency, the Minister of Petroleum. If you wanted to help a region, there is the government and the Majles and you could help through legal channels. We truly believe that regions such as Masjed-e Soleyman and Mahshahr are deprived. However, if you wish to help, it must be through legal channels. By this sort of action you can not manage to keep a stone atop another one.

Mr. Rashidiyan added: The other problem is that, the official in charge of the oil company in Masjed-e Soleyman, based on the list signed and distributed by Mr. Nuri, has been one of the contractors.

In conclusion, Mr. Rashidiyan stated: My questions still hold. The Petroleum Ministry has thousands of kilometers of these pipes across the country. What has been planned to collect these? Does the ministry allow anyone to take the belongings of this ministry and use them in their deprived regions?

### The Petroleum Minister's Response

In his response to Mr. Rashidiyan, Mr. Aqazadeh said: As I said before, the esteemed Friday prayer leader's action was inappropriate. However, I am certain that this sum has been spent on the deprived and the downtrodden of Masjed-e Soleyman.

It must be noted that in conclusion Mr. Rashidiyan was not convinced by Mr. Aqazadeh's responses and, therefore, the question was sent to the Questions Commission.

The next open session of the Majles was scheduled to be held on Sunday, 9 September 1990.

## *Paper on Qasemlu's Shooting, Weapons Deal

*90AS0470K London KEYHAN in Persian*
*30 Aug 90 p 12*

[Text] 'Abdolrahman Qasemlu, the first secretary of the Kurdish Democratic Party, was killed last year in Vienna in an apartment where he along with two companions was negotiating with a representative of the Islamic Republic. The Kurdish Democratic Party saw the hand of the regime of Tehran behind this political assassination, whereas the Islamic government blamed it on various conflicts among the factions. Some of the agents of the Tehran regime even blamed the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization.

Today, after the passage of one year, some of the secrets have been uncovered. The assassination of Qasemlu was most likely the work of the Islamic Republic Guard Corps, and the right-wing government of Austria at the time did all it could do to whitewash the murder. For instance, the two murder suspects, Sahrarudi and Bozorgian, who were openly wounded in the shoot-out at the apartment and captured by the police, were sent to Iran without being interrogated. It is certain that Qasemlu and his two companions were lured into an apartment in Vienna, which was in fact an "ambush." It is certain that envoys of the Tehran regime used their weapons first, but were shot by the Kurds before they could escape.

The result of the "negotiations" was the killing of three Kurds and the injury of two persons from the Islamic Republic. Qasemlu chose the tactic of negotiating with the Islamic Republic while fighting the armed forces of Iran in Kurdistan. Although Tehran newspapers do not publish any reports about the bloody skirmishes in Kurdistan, on the obituary pages at times the names of "martyrs" can be seen whose "martyrdom" occurred a year, 40 days, or a week earlier, even though there has been a cease-fire on the Iran-Iraq war front for more than two years. These "martyrdoms" occur in the war without a front in Kurdistan.

In any case, the Islamic Republic eliminated Qasemlu, but why did the government of Austria want to whitewash the murder? The issue concerns the illegal sale of arms to the Islamic Republic by the Austrian government company "Novikum." The Islamic Republic immediately after the murder of Qasemlu threatened the government of Austria that if this murder were investigated, it would reveal the illegal arms sale. Austria relinquished and the Islamic Republic kept silent. However, recently, a representative of parliament in Vienna has found access to the case and realized that there is a correlation between the two events of the arms sale and the murder of Qasemlu. The former Austrian prime minister, the foreign minister, and the interior minister have also become involved. A large judicial case is ahead. The visit to Tehran of Eric Schmidt, the political deputy of the Austrian foreign ministry, even though it took place on the surface to "negotiate the expansion of relations between the two countries," is considered by informed circles to be related to the double case of murder and illegal arms trade.

## Paper Discusses Significance of Experts Elections

*NC1210165090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English*
*6 Oct 90 p 2*

[Editorial: "Assembly of Experts Elections Crucial"]

[Text] Last week the Leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in a speech to a large group of people, which included freed Iranian PoWs, referred to the efforts of world arrogance and international Zionism to bring into disrepute the prestige and power of the Islamic Republic and Revolution and stressed that it is the religious duty of the Iranian people to participate wholeheartedly in the Assembly of Experts elections this week.

Referring to the Islamic Republic's Constitution, the Leader said the Council of Guardians is a body in our system which guarantees the righteousness and Islamic nature of the system. It is a certain fact that the Islamic Republic system and its Constitution are in accordance with Islam's sacred Sharia laws. This is undeniable that the Council of Guardians, as the Leader pointed out, is a vehicle in the Constitution, for guaranteeing the righteousness of this system.

It is therefore natural that the decisions of the respectable Council of Guardians are directed at the better implementation of the Constitution, the Sharia laws and, ultimately, the achievement of the superior aims of Islam. In fact, the members of the Council were personally approved by the late Imam Khomeyni as well as Ayatollah Khamene'i.

On the international level, the Islamic Republic of Iran, due to the attraction it has aroused among the Muslims of the world, has changed many of the divisions and rifts into unity and solidarity. It is due to this reason that the Islamic Republic is envied and opposed by the world arrogance and international Zionism.

At times we observe that as soon as the slightest difference of view arises within the Islamic Republic, certain foreign propaganda machineries immediately start to exaggerate the issue and brand it as a fundamental division. But fortunately they have so far failed in their evil attempts.

As the world gradually realizes the righteousness of the Islamic Republic's stances on various issues and in relation with various countries and regions, it should not be forgotten that in this field too the nature of relations among high officials within the Islamic Republic are different from those which exist in many other countries. Differences of view between individuals within the Islamic Republic in no way signify the creation of rifts, divisions or disunity among its people as a whole, because the entire system rests on the solid foundation of Islam and its sacred laws.

Belief in Islam and obedience to its duties and laws is something common to all the people under the Islamic Republic system, and is something which unites them and creates a bond among them. Therefore, as the Leader has stressed that participation in the upcoming Assembly of Experts elections is a religious duty, we will see that even those individuals who have difference of views among them on certain issues, will wholeheartedly participate in these elections along with other sectors of the society. And this will declare to the world the fact that true unity exists among Muslims.

## *Paper on Fate of Former Oil Minister

*90AS0470M London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 12*

[Text] Before Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, left for Tehran, it was rumored in Tehran that on the airplane carrying him would be an Iranian passenger as well. Engineer Javad Tondguyan, the former minister of petroleum of the Islamic Republic, had been captured on 9 Aban 1359 [31 October 1980] on the road between Abadan and Khorramshahr by Iraqi forces a few months after the Iran-Iraq war began and taken prisoner. But Tariq 'Aziz came and there was no Tondguyan on the airplane. Has he died or become a political refugee?

The officials of the Islamic Republic, who in the first years after the capture were interested in his return, have apparently lost interest, because it is said that Tondguyan, after appearing on Iraqi television criticizing the regime of Tehran, had asked Iraq for political asylum and now lives in Iraq as a political refugee. Also, unconfirmed reports indicate that there had been meetings between Tondguyan and Mas'ud Rajavi, in which the former minister of petroleum of the Islamic Republic had provided interesting information to the leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization. However, recently the rumor of his death in a prison camp in Iraq has become stronger in Iran. The death or political asylum of Javad Tondguyan is given more credence given the recent return to Tehran of Engineer Behruz Bushehri and Engineer Yahyavi, who were both deputies of Javad Tondguyan in the Ministry of Petroleum and who had accompanied him on the same trip and had been captured by the Iraqi army.

The employees of the Ministry of Petroleum report that Tondguyan is not as sorry about having been captured as he is happy about the capture of Hojjat ol-Eslam Abutorabi, because even though Tondguyan, Bushehri, and Yahyavi were educated in the Abadan Petroleum College, the clerics had imposed Hojjat ol-Eslam Abutorabi as the political supervisor and deputy minister of petroleum, even though he could not distinguish the smell of kerosene from the smell of gasoline.

## Commentary Lauds Turnout for Experts Elections

*NC0910080390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0447 GMT 9 Oct 90*

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Yesterday the Muslim Iranian nation were given yet another political test. By turning out in large numbers for the elections it proved its political maturity and revolutionary mission, thus disappointing the enemies of the Islamic Revolution one more time. [passage omitted]

The Assembly of Experts' elections were significant in view of the current sensitive phase of the Islamic Revolution and in view of the propaganda, the psychological war, and the plots that the enemies of the revolution hatch in an effort to distance the people from the scene. However, with their wide turnout in the elections, the people demonstrated their support for the revolution. They performed their canonical and national duty and did what our late Imam, who always called for presence in all the political, social, and religious scenes, wanted them to do.

The multitudinous turnout of the Islamic ummah at yesterday's elections was another manifestation of the Muslim Iranians' alertness and revolutionary zeal—something which will gladden the friends of the Islamic Revolution and disappoint the enemies. This is especially true at a time when the current situation in the region and the great path of the Islamic Revolution has doubled the significance of the people's unity in making the revolution progress and in making the country to flourish in the new era of development.

At any rate, as they themselves have repeatedly confessed, the officials of the country have a heavy responsibility to shoulder vis-a-vis the people's commitment and their sense of duty in safeguarding the revolution—something that the people have shown over and over again.

### *Paper on Pressure on Certain Publications

*90AS0470J London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Aug 90 p 12*

[Text] The publication of several monthly and seasonal cultural, artistic, literary, and specialized publications in Iran which are of relatively high quality and are often managed or aided by the professional publishers of old have become sources of envy for those who have gotten their hands on the large confiscated press establishments but who are unable to influence the cultural strata of the Iranian society.

Some time ago, the government manager of one of these large press establishments invited an experienced journalist to explain why these publications were for the most part successful while the publications that are published by the confiscated establishments cannot gain the trust of the readers.

The journalist responded half-heartedly, which of course was not expressive of his secret belief. His secret belief was clear, even if unsaid, and that is that the publications that impose the views of the government and are bound to observe the orders of the censors will never be able to gain the trust of the readers.

On the other hand, efforts to prevent the publication of so-called "non-committed" publications have increased. The main leader of this effort is a person by the name of Mohammad Nasiri, who has been appointed by Ahmad Khomeyni as the deputy director of KEYHAN. In an article signed "'A. Nasrabadi" and entitled "What Is the Direction of the Policy of Publication?" he writes that some of the publications clearly "insult" the regime of the Islamic Republic and some of them are published by the "remains of the past regime and mercenary writers of the monarchy."

He asks the government of the Islamic Republic, "Why are concessions and resources given to reactionary pens and minds and to sick people who seek their ideals and utopia in the decadent Western culture," who want to open the way for "the monster" into the country and who try to "rob the faith and religion of the people"? It is interesting that the distribution of paper for the press is the responsibility of the KEYHAN establishment, but the press procures the larger part of their paper needs on the black market. Of course, they control the distribution of paper for newspapers. Not even a newspaper like RESALAT is left untouched, because once in a while for some reason it exposes some of the important figures of the regime, such as Sheikh Hadi Ghaffari, for his financial misuse and accumulation of money in Swiss bank accounts.

Last week, RESALAT announced that on Saturday, 11 August, the paper would not be published due to a shortage of paper. And RESALAT is one of the organs of the regime, albeit not as enthusiastic as KEYHAN and ETTELA'AT.

### *Thirteen Tons of Narcotics Seized in Esfahan

*90AS0470O London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 2*

[Text] According to a report by IRNA, with the identification of a narcotics distribution ring in Esfahan, 13 tons and 200 kg of narcotics were discovered and confiscated. The members of the ring numbered 49 persons.

The discovery of such a volume of narcotics, especially from a smuggling ring, shows the horrible level of expansion of the addiction of the society to narcotics.

The regime of the Islamic Republic only uses its own unique method, that is, the execution of smugglers and distributors of narcotics, to uproot addiction. But after two years and the execution of thousands of people, not only has addiction not decreased but it has spread.

### *Value of Imports to Reach 3 Billion Dollars

*90AS0470S London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 4*

[Text] On the basis of statistics published by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic, from the start of the plan to import goods without the transfer of government foreign currency (26 November 1988) until the end of last year [20 March 1990], about $2.2 billion worth of permitted goods have been imported into the country. The amount from the beginning of this year [21 March 1990] to mid-Mordad [August] has amounted to $1.1 billion. According to the predictions of 'Abdolhoseyn Vahaji, the Islamic Republic's minister of commerce, this figure is expected to reach $3 billion. Reports from Tehran indicate that at the present time with the implementation of the open-door policy by the Islamic regime, merchants have engaged in importing various goods and consumer items. An economic expert told KEYHAN that considering the foreign currency rate paid by importers to purchase goods from abroad, and also taking into consideration the fact that the regime, based on its own official announcement, avoids controlling the sale price of such items, the domestic markets will gradually be filled with goods and items that, because of their high prices, most people will not be able to purchase and use.

Apparently, the increase in foreign currency revenues of the Islamic Republic as a result of the increase in the price of oil, and also the additional production over the quota of this substance, has given a free hand to the regime to import as much in terms of foreign goods and commodities as possible. Reports in the newspapers of the Islamic Republic indicate that in the past few months, the regime's Ministry of Commerce has engaged in purchasing large amounts of essential goods. The regime's minister of commerce told reporters some time ago that the purchasing of essential goods this year reached $1.6 billion, which marks an increase of about five times compared to last year.

Some news sources report that in the past few weeks, a major portion of the Islamic Republic's imports have secretly been exported to Iraq. The WALL STREET JOURNAL, published in the United States, wrote in one of its recent issues that the Islamic regime in Tehran increased its purchases of wheat at an unprecedented rate last month.

The above-mentioned newspaper added: "Experts believe that the increased purchase of wheat by the Islamic Republic indicates that the country is delivering some of the purchased grain to Iraq."

### *Construction of Bushehr Power Plant Delayed

*90AS0470C London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 4*

[Text] The implementation of the plan to create nuclear power plants in the Islamic Republic has been postponed due to the lack of cooperation on the part of the contractor. The above statement was made some time ago by Reza Amrollahi, the vice president of the Islamic Republic, to participants in a seminar on methods of procuring funds for the nuclear power plant projects in developing countries. The above-mentioned official, addressing those present in the seminar, which was held in the Indonesian capital of Djakarta, said: The operations for the Federal Republic of Germany's Kraft Werke Union company to build the Bushehr nuclear power plant, which included two 1200-megawatt units, was stopped by the German government following the Islamic revolution in Iran.

The head of the atomic energy agency added: The subsequent claims of both sides were resolved through the international arbitration court, and even though in accordance with the ruling of this court the contractor is supposed to complete the project whenever Iran wishes, despite Iran's readiness, unfortunately, such cooperation has not been offered in practice by the above-mentioned contractor. At the same time, the Islamic Republic has frequently declared its interest in completing at least one unit of this power plant, which was about 80 percent complete when the work halted.

In his speech, the above-mentioned official said: So far, this plan has cost Iran about $4 billion, and even though financial problems have never been among the major difficulties of this plan, the FRG has continuously refused to offer the necessary cooperation.

## Nepal & Bhutan

### Protests Threatened Over Constitution Delays

*BK1810004090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1827 GMT 17 Oct 90*

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 17 (AFP)—Nepal's king and premier were to finalize the new constitution Wednesday, officials said, as opposition groups threatened to take to the streets to protest delays in the document's promulgation.

A senior aide to Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattari said the premier would hold a "crucial" meeting with King Birendra to decide the final shape of the draft constitution and set a date for its promulgation.

Mr. Bhattari delivered the re-drafted constitution to the king with changes suggested by a three-member cabinet subcommittee, which studied the draft last week, the source said.

"We want to be perfect as far as possible in the letter and spirit of the new constitution," he said.

A royal palace source maintained that some words needed to be deleted, notably references in the preamble to the popular movement that brought an end to Nepal's one-party system in April.

He also called for changes in the wording of articles covering the constitutional privileges of the king and members of the immediate royal family.

Opposition groups here accused "reactionary forces" of foot-dragging on the new constitution.

The United Left Front (ULF) chairwoman Sahana Pradhan said in a statement Wednesday that the ULF would take to the streets "for yet another people's revolution" if the delays continued.

"Conspiracy is afoot to dilute the constitution," said Bharat Mohan Adhikari, a member of the constitution recommendation commission and a leading figure in Nepal's Communist Party.

Mr. Adhikari called Tuesday for the earliest possible promulgation of the draft prepared by the commission, whose members represent Nepalese political parties and the royal family.

### Bhattari Says Date Uncertain

*BK1810132890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1300 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 18 (AFP)—Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattari said Thursday that a constitution guaranteeing the constitutional monarchy and a multi-party system will soon be promulgated.

However, Mr. Bhattari, who met Wednesday with King Birendra for a fifth round of talks to fix the draft constitution's final shape, could not give a promulgation date.

But he told a public meeting that the new constitution would fully guarantee the constitutional monarchy and multi-party system, based on a bicameral parliament and basic human rights.

Meanwhile, the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front (ULF), which groups seven factions of the Nepal Communist Party, have patched up their differences to concentrate on delays over the constitution.

"It is not the time to fight among ourselves for petty things or on personal differences," said one senior ULF leader who did not want to be named.

Instead the opposition groups should unite to fight "the reactionary force which is trying to defame the draft constitution," the ULF leader said.

The leader added the groups had jointly fought the previous 30-year-old single party Panchayat [parliamentary] system "and now we have to show the same spirit to crush the reactionary force within and outside the palace."

## Pakistan

### Ayodyha Sealed; Government-BJP Clash Seen

*BK1910005790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1834 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 18 (AFP)—India's fragile coalition government appeared to be heading Thursday for a disastrous confrontation with its right-wing ally, with no compromise in sight over a raging temple-mosque dispute.

Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's 11-month-old administration sealed off Ayodhya, the northern town where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) wants to build a Hindu temple on a site Moslems also claim. The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency said Ayodhya was sealed from "all sides" by federal security forces ahead of the October 30 target set by the BJP for the start of the temple's construction. Thousands of BJP activists were arrested in Uttar Pradesh state, where Ayodhya is located, and public assemblies banned in several towns, PTI said.

Mr. V.P. Singh's minority National Front government moved daringly for the crackdown a day after the BJP threatened to topple it in case its temple-construction programme was thwarted.

BJP leader Lal Krishan Advani is on a 10,000-kilometre (6,000- mile) road journey to Ayodhya to supervise the construction of the temple to Lord Rama, the divine Hindu symbol of goodness. He warned during a stop here Wednesday that the BJP would withdraw its support in case the temple building plans are hampered—a move that would topple the government dependent on the party's 86 MPs for survival in office.

Efforts were underway Thursday to forge a compromise that would prevent a break, but neither side appeared to be willing to back off from its commitment.

Mr. V.P. Singh's government has pledged to defend the 16th- century mosque in Ayodhya that Hindus claim was built by Moghul Emperor Babar after demolishing a Lord Rama temple there.

A National Front spokesman said the government was "prepared to face the consequences" but would not compromise on its commitment.

Moslems, the largest religious minority in overwhelmingly Hindu India, refuse to accept the Hindu account and have threatened to resist the BJP with force in case the government failed to keep its pledge.

The communally sensitive eastern state of Bihar, where Mr. Advani is scheduled to arrive Saturday, summoned federal paramilitary reinforcements and put the army on alert.

State Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, who belongs to Mr. V.P. Singh's Janata Dal (People's Party), said here his administration would not compromise on "communalism" and hinted that Mr. Advani may be arrested.

BJP General Secretary K.L. Sharma warned in reply that such action would be "ill-advised."

"Such an action is bound to earn the wrath of millions of Hindus who are committed to build the Rama temple and will damage the cause of Moslems gravely on the other," he said. He added there was no question of the BJP bowing to pressure to stop its programme.

The BJP's blatant pro-Hindu platform has seen its emergence as a potential political superpower in a country where Hindus compose more than 80 per cent of the population.

Senior party leader Vijaye Raje Scindia, the queen mother of the erstwhile princely state of Gwalior, told a press conference here that the BJP would improve its position in parliament in case early elections were held. The construction of the temple would automatically become a major election issue, said Mrs. Scindia, adding that the BJP was "committed to the people" to build the temple. There are not enough jails to keep the millions and millions of volunteers who will be there (in Ayodhya) for the temple construction," she said.

The Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), a bitter BJP opponent, deplored the party's "intransigent attitude." "The time has come for all patriotic citizens to stand up to the communal challenge. Everything cherished in our traditions is at stake today," it said.

The temple-mosque dispute surfaced in 1986 and has been quieted by periodic judicial intervention. It has sparked dozens of communal riots leaving hundreds dead and observers foresee another round of bloodletting.

### Sindh High Court Upholds Assembly Dissolution

*BK1810085090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] The full bench of Sindh High Court today declared as valid the presidential order dissolving the National Assembly on the 6th of August and the Sindh governor's order dissolving the provincial assembly. In a short order, the acting justice, Mr. Justice Syeduzamman Siddiqui, said the judgment in both the cases is unanimous. Beside the acting chief justice, the full bench comprised Mr. Justice Salim Akhtar, Mr. Justice Syed Abdul Rahman, Mr. Justice Maimul Qazi, and Mr. Justice Hafizul Khairi. Constitutional petitions challenging the president's orders were filed by Mr. Khalid Malik Awan, Mr. Munnawar Maulvi, and Mr. Riazuddin Bilal. Mr. Khalid Malik Awan appeared in person, while other petitioners were represented by Mr. Aziz Ahmad Maulvi and Mr. S.M. Syed. The petitions challenging the Sindh governor's order were filed on behalf of the former chief minister, Mr. Aftab Shahban Mirani, and Mr. Abdul Hafiz Latoo appeared for the petitioner.

The full bench also heard several other advocates appearing as pro bono publico. The federation was represented by Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Attorney General Aziz A. Munshi, Deputy Attorney General Mr. Nizam Ahmad, Mr. Zakiuddin Paul, Mr. Mansoor Ahmad Khan, Mr. Syed A. Shaikh, Mr. Naimur Rahman, and Mr. Anwar Masood.

### Cells Set Up To Monitor Order During Polls

*BK1810162790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] The Election Commission has decided to set up coordination cells at district level to monitor the law and order situation on the election days. The decision was taken at a high-level meeting in Islamabad today chaired by the chief election commissioner, Mr. Justice Naimuddin. The coordination cells will be headed by the district and sessions judges who will be assisted by the civil administration. The commission has categorized constituencies as very sensitive and normal and security arrangements have been finalized accordingly so that polling can be held in a peaceful atmosphere.

The meeting was attended by members of the commission, Mr. Justice Khalilur Rahman Khan, Mr. Justice Amirul Mengal, provincial election commissioners, chief secretaries, and home secretaries of the four provinces, and senior secretaries, senior officials of police and a representative of the Defense Ministry.

### Jatoi on Election Date, U.S. Aid Suspension

*BK1910100990 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has expressed confidence that the people will give their verdict in his favor during the coming elections. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad before his departure for Karachi yesterday evening, the prime minister said that the elections would definitely be held on the scheduled date and that there should be no doubts about it. He said all the arrangements have been made for holding elections on 24 and 27 October.

In reply to a question, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said the people know who caused the suspension of U.S. aid to Pakistan and that they have now been fully exposed. He said political differences should not be carried to such an extent that they harm the country. The prime minister said besides the election manifesto, the people also keep in mind the candidate's personality and are fully aware of who was involved in corruption and plundering of national wealth, and who has deprived people of their rights.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said the tribunals handling the process of accountability are high-level courts and are making their decisions independently. So far as we are concerned, the process of accountability will continue, he observed. Answering yet another question, the prime minister said there is no harm in using some funds for the development of backward areas or constituencies which remained neglected during the past two years.

### Minister on Aid Promises by Gulf Countries

*BK1810155090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] Finance Minister Sartaz Aziz has said that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and the Islamic Development Bank have agreed to provide assistance of about $500 million to help Pakistan overcome difficulties that has resulted from the Gulf crisis. He was addressing a press conference in Islamabad today on his return from a visit to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Mr. Sartaz Aziz said the Islamic Development Bank has agreed to provide between $150 to $200 million within this month. He revealed that Pakistan has been included in the list of countries badly affected by the Gulf crisis. Other countries severely affected by the Gulf crisis include Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt.

### Minister Criticizes Lobbying With U.S. Congressmen

*BK1610122490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Oct 90*

[Text] The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Syeda Abida Hussain, has said Pakistan will not allow American interference in its internal politics. In a press statement in Jhang, she said Pakistani voters, and not the United States would decide the fate and future of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP]. She added that hectic lobbying of PPP leadership with U.S. congressmen and officials reveals the self-centered approach of PPP. The information minister made it clear that the Islamic Democratic Alliance is committed to maintaining balanced and friendly relations with all nations of the world, including the United States.

## Information Minister Rejects Outside Interference

*BK1410101790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Oct 90*

[Text] Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister Syeda Abida Hussain has said that the people of Pakistan want their leaders to be accountable to them and that no outside power has any right to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan. Addressing public meetings at several places near Jhang yesterday, she said the people know how to protect their national interest. She urged the people to reject those who have plundered national wealth and to elect those who can eliminate injustice.

## Bhutto Interviewed on Elections, Other Issues

*BK0910111590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Oct 90 p 5*

["Text" of interview with former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by unidentified correspondents in Lahore; date not given]

[Text] [MUSLIM] Not all the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] members of the recently dissolved National Assembly have been given tickets by the party this time. In your view, how would this affect the PPP's strength in the National Assembly if the Assemblies are revived by the courts?

[Bhutto] Between the President and the President's men there is an ongoing debate for some time now as to whether the lesser evil is the revival of the old Assembly or a fresh mandate whereby the PPP comes back with a stronger hand. They have not made up their minds because they are wondering how far they can rig the elections and control the effects of the elections on the 24th and 27th. But I understand that in principle the President prefers to have fresh elections and would like to have me disqualified between October 22nd and November 22nd. He feels that by disqualifying me during this period, elections will still have credibility. And they can then try and fix things. But some of his colleagues are worried that if they wait till the 22nd I will have shown a very large majority supporting me and then it will be difficult to disqualify a person vindicated by the people of Pakistan. The president feels that if the Assemblies are restored then he is morally obliged to go. Because he took a decision which the courts would be ruling against. Therefore, he is not in favour of reviving the Assemblies. But at the same time they are not sure how far the judges would go, so that has put a fresh perspective on the whole situation.

[MUSLIM] If the Assemblies are restored by the courts would you call an election in the immediate future, in any case?

[Bhutto] I don't expect the Assemblies to be revived but if they are I would call a meeting firstly of all the PPP MNAs [Members of National Assembly] given tickets as well as those not given tickets and I would ask them what they wanted to do. Whether they wanted to go for fresh elections or continue sitting in the National Assembly. And after consulting them I would take a decision. I may also call some of the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance] MNAs who were not given tickets by the IJI in this consultation process and after consulting them take a decision.

[MUSLIM] Punjab has been a mainstay for the PPP but this time you are not contesting from there. Other than having Afghar Khan contest from Lahore are there any other considerations behind this decision?

[Bhutto] I was originally to contest from Lahore and Peshawar and from Karachi. But I wanted to contest the least amount of seats because my last experience shows that the more seats you contest the more preoccupied you become. You are the candidate. You come back after a long day after giving several speeches and you have messages waiting from different campaign managers that the flags have not come, the banners have not come. You are being called in the middle of the night. There are the faulty telephone lines—it just adds to the burden. There is also a great demand on your time. So I prefer to contest fewer seats and would have liked to contest only my seat in Lyari. But people in Peshawar and Lahore insisted that I contest from there as well. They felt it would have a salutary fallout on the other seats. Then Asghar Khan is contesting the Lahore seat. It was decided that we wanted to give projection and focus to one seat. If I was fighting the People's Party workers with their emotional attachment would all be focusing on my seat. If I was not there then it would free them to concentrate on other seats. If I were contesting the Press also would be looking at both seats. International monitors, too, would be diverted. So from the practical consideration of focusing it seemed best to let the Air Marshal be the focus of attention.

[MUSLIM] We have been recently told by the Chief of Army Staff, Mirza Aslam Beg, that a major conspiracy has been uncovered which kept him from going to Korea among other things. We are also now hearing a lot more about the Kashmir front. Do you think all this adds up to something?

[Bhutto] General Beg can best answer that question. But given the external threat I do feel that the arbitrary manner in which the President acted, in party vindictiveness, to dismiss a popularly elected government has thrown the country into an internal crisis and has been a setback for Pakistan's national interests.

[MUSLIM] There has been a denial with respect to a charge that you made against a son-in-law of the President to the effect that he had been arrested on a charge of drug trafficking. Would you elaborate?

[Bhutto] I want a supreme judicial commission to enquire into several charges including the one in which a son-in-law of the President had been arrested on narcotics charge and the President, allegedly, used undue influence to secure his release in exchange for a wanted prisoner from Pakistan. The President's sons-in-law all benefited. They talk about an LPG [Liquefied Propane Gas] plant. I did not give any LPG to my relatives. The total LPG that Ziaul Haq gave, one unit was 60 tons. My government cut it up into small bits and there were many applications that were forwarded, including by me and I was perfectly entitled to do so. The question arises does the Prime Minister have any power and authority or not. I say the Prime Minister does have power and authority. The Prime Minister makes the rules. The PM can relax the rules. But it is to be shown whether the PM relaxed the rules for personal benefit or not. I never gained anything. But the President's son-in-law was allocated a Lubricant plant which is four times more than an LPG plant. What I am really angry about is this hypocritical President. His sons-in-law had bank loans written off. Not one relative of mine had a bank loan written off. The fact of the matter is that I did not commit corruption. Those who were corrupt slandered my name to get me out of the way so that they could continue with their loot and plunder. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Billions of dollars were given to Pakistan during the Afghan war years but Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves remained pitifully low. It was my government which improved the balance of payments position, cut the deficit, cut inflation. We did not rob the country's resources as my predecessors did, whom the President served. He loves people who are corrupt. Please note that the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Industry are among the people who have had bank loans written off. Birds of a feather flock together. He did not like me. I was a stranger to the status quo. I was saying no to the corrupt ways of the past. I was saying I wanted to turn Pakistan into a modern nation state of the 21st century. They did not like the fact that I had given people freedom for this eroded the bases of their support because they could no longer thrust their values on the people of Pakistan. The President and his men have been responsible for running the affairs of this country since 1947 and they have made a mess of it.

[MUSLIM] You have been saying that if you are returned to power the President will have to go. You seem to be implying that the gentleman's way to do it would be for him to resign but if he refuses you have said that there are constitutional judicial ways of going about it. How—?

[Bhutto] I believe it is criminal to dismiss an elected Assembly. It is a criminal act against the people of Pakistan to arbitrarily, unfairly dismiss the Assembly irrespective of the legal implications. If a government has the confidence of the people of Pakistan the President has no right to dismiss that government. That is why I want elections on October 24 so that there is a fresh mandate and a strong mandate.

[MUSLIM] But apart from pressing whatever charges that you make against President Ghulam Ishaq, would you also want certain institutional changes because as you have said yourself this is the 5th time that a prime minister has been removed in an arbitrary manner?

[Bhutto] That is right. I want the democratic process. I have never been in it for myself. God has always been kind to me. But I chose a life that entailed a lot of suffering and tribulations. Because I put the national interests before personal pleasure. That was the kind of family I was born into. That was what my father taught us since the time we were little children. As such I want to see the democratic process strengthened. Now in two years we have had two Assemblies dismissed. Democracy cannot gain strength like this. And I firmly believe that development cannot take place without democracy. And therefore the people of this country need to assure the President that if you dismiss a government you are apt to get dismissed so that the President has to think hard before he dismisses a government enjoying the support of the people, which has the support of the Parliament. I just passed a very tough budget. Increased the level of resource mobilisation. The Junejo government had tried it but was forced to take back the tax measures. The opposition was in glee. They took out advertisements thinking people were going to come out on the streets. But the people of Pakistan knew that I was asking them to make these sacrifices so that we could lay the foundations of an egalitarian society and we were prepared to make those sacrifices. So, it is the principle of the thing that matters. If the president can simply get away with it then democracy can never take roots.

[MUSLIM] So in a sense we are back to the 8th Amendment. It is a question of deciding who really is the chief executive?

[Bhutto] That is a different matter too. The issue is can one individual declare that the verdict of the people of Pakistan is wrong.

[MUSLIM] The President's supporters would contend that he too is an elected President. Elected by the five assemblies.

[Bhutto] He is not an elected President. He is an indirectly elected President. He is an indirectly elected President, for a very small purpose. He exceeded the bounds of his duty. And he made my life miserable when I was prime minister. One day I am going to write a book about it. I even wrote to him in June 1989 and I said one of the people who have met you has just come out and said that you want to dissolve the assemblies and you are preparing the grounds. In other words you have made up your mind. Come to think of it you are writing quite a few letters to me. So he conspired in his action. And he conspired with a series of other people. For instance, a couple of politicians said from the floor of the National Assembly in June that this is the last session. How did Sheikh Rashid, Abida Hussain and Makhdoom Khaliquzzaman know that this was the last session unless somebody had taken them into confidence. How is it that Ejazul Haq said in May that before August 17 this government will go. Obviously there was a conspiracy to throw the government out and several people were taken into confidence.

[MUSLIM] Apparently President Bush has decided to wait out till the elections before he gives the required certification for Pakistan on the nuclear issue. Now, do you think that this delay is due essentially to differences on the nuclear issue or does it have to do with U.S. interest in having fair elections in Pakistan as is being implied in certain quarters?

[Bhutto] The question of certification is not rooted in the elections. There were problems with regard to certification earlier on. When I was prime minister this matter was brought to my attention. I had also brought it to the President's attention. The question of nuclear proliferation has plagued the politics of Pakistan and I have always wanted to ensure that we have an above board nuclear policy so that Pakistan is not made vulnerable by connected actions. I had seen in the past also what had happened, in 1977. I thought Pakistan's future is too valuable to risk at this particular stage, any such cut off. So the question of certification is not connected to the elections being held now. The problems over it arose much earlier, in the spring. However, in addition to the certification the United States Appropriations Committee has passed a resolution that notwithstanding any other law no aid be given to Pakistan until fair, free and impartial elections are held, the emergency lifted and a new government formed. I don't understand though that when they first did this constitutional coup, the presidency boasted about the fact that the State Department had given a statement saying that it was Pakistan's internal affair. So when the American card goes in their favour they beat it about as much as they can and when it doesn't they suddenly turn around and say who are they to tell us. The fact of the matter is that the United States of America has taken a strong stand for democracy the world over. If they supported individuals that would be interference in our internal affairs. Support for democracy, however, has also come from Third World leaders such as Cory Aquino and myself. We have voiced the need for New Democracies supporting each other or an Association of democratic nations so that freedom is preserved and strengthened the world over. Mankind is born free. It should remain free.

[MUSLIM] There is the doctrine enunciated here that posits a strategic consensus between Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. Where exactly do you stand on that?

[Bhutto] Pakistan, Iran and Turkey have often come together, in the RCD [Regional Cooperation for Development], for instance. And before the new Afghanistan situation developed there was also some concept of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey and Iran. I personally stand for non-alignment. And I think Pakistan should maintain its non-aligned posture. This does not mean that we should ignore the fact that the world is moving towards regional groupings. But we should allow ourselves the flexibility to have overlapping regional grouping. We can be a part of many worlds we are part of the Islamic World, SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] the Commonwealth. But the basic principle in my view should be non-alignment.

[MUSLIM] When we sent our troops to the Gulf, apparently we did not consult either with Iran or Turkey. Subsequently we did so. Do you think our relationship with them is of a kind wherein we should have consulted with these countries?

[Bhutto] That is a difficult question. The fact of the matter is that the Gulf crisis is one that has involved all Muslim countries. As soon as the crisis occurred I asked the Foreign. Office to get in touch with different Muslim countries. I myself also contacted some of the ambassadors involved. I wanted to see a united Muslim resolve to settle the question. The issue of withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait is an extremely important one. It would be preferable for this withdrawal to come about as a result of Muslim countries endeavours. As far as the PPP's policy is concerned we support the United Nations Security Council resolutions on the issue. For us the question of troops is a very difficult one. Because if the security of Muslim nations is affected we would like to discuss if in any way we can be helpful but also at the same time we have a tense security situation with Indian troops poised on our borders. If you recall my earlier statements we expected from spring to June to be a little difficult and then again from September onwards to November. Till then the war threat is there. But with the successful diplomacy of the PPP government we were able to ward off the war threat. Unfortunately, by creating an internal crisis, Ishaq has once again made Pakistan vulnerable. [MUSLIM] There is a regional dimension involved here. There is complete consensus on the fact that Iraq should withdraw from Kuwait. However, even in the proposals of the regional security structures put forward by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze and U.S. Foreign Secretary James Baker, there is a difference. The latter suggests inclusion of the superpowers in the arrangement whereas the former does not. At the same time Iran has taken a very strong position on American presence in the Gulf with President Khamene'i saying that anyone who dies fighting there against the Americans will be a Shaheed so it is a very tricky...

[Bhutto] It is very tricky. That is why it is important to have preferably a pan-Islamic response because then it remains an issue of one Muslim country going into another Muslim country. It is a matter of the security that Muslim countries expect from each other. But if it is not a Pan-Islamic response then it may divert the issue from what it is into another one.

[MUSLIM] Some of the harshest criticism that you came under while in office, had to with the foreign policy arena and your handling of Afghanistan, Kashmir-...Would you make a general comment?

[Bhutto] I handled Kashmir much better than they could ever dream of handling Kashmir. I am proud of the way the People's Party government catapulted Kashmir on to the world stage with the superpowers discussing it and the Islamic countries had a united resolution on it. And there are many other steps which we took which I cannot reveal for national security reasons. As far as Afghanistan is concerned, had the PP government handled it we would have been in much better shape. As we let the President handle it is still unresolved—I believe that it is important to have a settlement in Afghanistan. I believe that the law and order problem and the narcotics problem in Pakistan is tied in to the Afghanistan problem. And I said this to the President in July. I said Mr President, for 20 months we have been going along hoping that the AIG (Afghan Interim Government) would come together, hoping that the various proposals would bear fruit—it has not happened. And I said there isn't donor fatigue there is donor fed upness and the burden is all going to fall on Pakistan. I said for us the arms infiltration into Sindh is another problem. I said in another 20 years you are going to have a Sindh like situation in the Frontier unless these refugees go back to their homeland. I said it is about time that we took the initiative. I was concerned that we should not lose the opportunity to resolve the Afghan problem while world interest remained. Unfortunately now with the Gulf crisis we have been sidetracked. On any of the issues whether it is the handling of Afghanistan, Kashmir or the nuclear programme—on all these I think there are different perspectives. I tried to be cautious and take them along too. We made our own mark on certain fields. And as soon as he took this step to overthrow us he has got problems on Afghanistan, the Kashmir issue has taken a turn for the worse, the nuclear certification issue is threatening Pakistan and at a time when Indian troops are on our borders.

[MUSLIM] And the home front?

[Bhutto] I wanted an independent press and an independent judiciary because I do think that checks and balances are necessary. But in our country there have been no checks and balances and institutions have been controlled by individuals. I believe that the step the President took in confirming the ad hoc judge who came out against restoring the assemblies while throwing out the ad hoc judge in favour of restoring the Assemblies, is a serious blow to the independence of the judiciary. I don't like the way he is dragging the judiciary into Pakistan's political conflicts. These conflicts should have been left to Parliament. Journalists and Press photographers have been beaten and arrested and discreet messages are sent to the Press. All this amounts to undermining the pillars of the new democratic society that the PPP was building. There were three commissions that the PPP government set up. In none of those commissions did we choose a single judge. We had the Chief Justices tell us. Let any of the Chief Justices Say...I never once approached one Chief Justice on any matter. I dealt through institutional ways. I did not call up individuals. My style of management was different. It was consensus oriented. We had meetings so that people could tell me what their views were.

The sale of the Rally Brothers cotton was decided in an ECC [Economic Coordination Committee] meeting and it was a question of improving our balance of payments position and getting foreign exchange before 30 June 1990. The State Bank Governor was there. The adviser was there. And I asked them is this right...does it help us. They said yes and asked me to go ahead and that improved our balance of payments position. They should ask themselves how we suffered a national loss when the Commerce Minister sold rice at 590 dollars. They said there was a kickback. Now rice has been sold for 450 dollars to Jam Sadiq's company and nobody is saying anything. It's good if you are corrupt as long as you are one of them. If you break the bastions of the old style of government and try to work through institutions then my God what's going to happen to all those who have lived off the cream of this land. Again there was a difference in terms of entrepreneurs. There was a real old boys network of civil and military bureaucrats who when they retired became businessmen. Now we opened it up to new entrepreneurs.

When I became prime minister there was a rule that no bank loan above five lakhs was to be given without asking the Ministry of Finance. So obviously very few bank loans were given because it takes so much time. I said no the banks must decide. We must make sure there is collateral. So no more loans without collateral. They couldn't take it. As I said let them publish the World Bank list of more than 200 individuals who are responsible for more than 80 percent of Pakistan's bad debts and they will all turn out to be people who are in the IJI and who have ruled this country directly or indirectly since 1947. They did not like the new Pakistan that I was making with the development in Punjab's poorer areas and in the interior of Sindh where there had been no investment. Suddenly investment was coming up and these 'upstarts' were setting up factories breaking the power of the few families related to each other. This was the real thing that they could not stomach. In 20 months 70 textile mills. These were not mills for PPP people. They were given to young entreprenours. They did not like that. Economic power was being dispersed in this country. Out of the 70 textile mills 60 were in the Punjab and Pakistan would have become a cotton importing country, from a cotton exporting country. We did not double investment, we took it to four times what it was. New structures were being built. New social relationships were being built. So it is really not just a question of personalities. It is a question of what sort of Pakistan there should be. One person actually said that this freedom process is undermining the Islamisation process. We are proud to be Muslims. We were projecting enlightened Islam. We were saying Islam is a religion which gives equality to men and women. By the grace of Allah I governer Pakistan with the largest province in revolt with a hostile President. Yet they could not undermine my parliamentary majority. They could not undermine my popular support and that is why they had to take these steps to throw me out. You have got to have roots among the masses in order to take all this.

[MUSLIM] What explains the timing of the dismissal of the Assemblies? Why not three months or six months later?

[Bhutto] Because in three months I would have been stronger. In three months I would have cochaired the international summit for children. I would have concluded the agreement on the Lowan tunnel and the metro project in Karachi. In Balochistan we would have formed a coalition government after the by-election that was being held there. In Punjab I would have come to an agreement with Nawaz Sharif on the issue of the 8th Amendment. And one more thing. My husband had sued them in the court. So by then the courts may have gone in our favour and the corruption balloon would have burst.

[MUSLIM] Do you think the Senate elections were a consideration?

[Bhutto] The Senate elections were in March. So they could have acted by December. They could have waited to try a no-confidence move in the Assembly in September or October or November. But the reason they did not, in my view, is that they thought I would be able to consolidate further. And then it would have been even more difficult. Of course the Azad Kashmir President's elections were also coming up in which General (Retd.) Majeed Malik went and horse traded to get the desired results. As I have said they overthrew me not because I was incompetent but because despite everything I was getting stronger and consolidating. So they had to act.

## Nusrat Bhutto Role in U.S. Aid Cut Viewed

*BK1410133590 Lahore THE NATION in English 14 Oct 90 p 11*

[Editorial: "US and the 'Bomb'"]

[Text] The report that Begum Nusrat Bhutto is in the US mobilising Congressional support in favour of her party would in itself be an act of doubtful propriety, but the rumour that she is instrumental in getting the US aid stopped to Pakistan, if true, amounts to betrayal. The US administration has made the release of aid contingent on Pakistan's abandoning its nuclear programme and holding free and fair elections. The assurances, given by the caretaker government on both counts, have reportedly had little effect. Since the caretaker government has been in power for only about two months, it could not obviously have accelerated the nuclear programme to a degree in the past few weeks to have either made a bomb or in the words of WASHINGTON POST, "something close enough". Therefore, to use this as an excuse for stopping even economic aid does not make sense. The previous government, headed by Begum Bhutto's party, had been giving assurances of the peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme and these were found acceptable. To assume that the programme has been turned around so that it has been able to produce something quite different is so preposterous that one cannot but suspect that there is more to it than meets the eye.

The insistence by the US on free and fair elections, even though it can be interpreted as interference in Pakistan's internal affairs, could be seen as having a moral angle to it. And as such one may be able to find some redeeming feature in it. But to bracket a non-existing bomb with an existing political situation is mala fide. And if Begum Bhutto has been at the back of it, it does her no credit. Pakistan's nuclear programme has so far enjoyed a bipartisan support in the country, as with it are linked not only Pakistan's energy needs, but also Pakistan's vital security interests. To allow this issue to be used against Pakistan as a pressure gambit would be playing with Pakistan's national interests. One can only hope that Begum Bhutto had no hand in it, because she could have given a handle to India and the Jewish lobby in the US—two of Pakistan's worst enemies—to drive Pakistan into a corner. She could have jeopardised Pakistan's interests.

## U.S. Policy Stirs 'Nationalistic Feelings'

*BK1810114790 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Oct 90 p 4*

[Editorial: "Time To End Foreign Dictation"]

[Text] The crescendo of nationalistic feelings stirred up by America's blatant effort to bring about changes in basic aspects of Pakistan's national policy at a most crucial juncture in this country's history, has gained a marked momentum over the past couple of days. Perhaps for the first time in the chequered record of Pakistan's conduct of foreign relations, various segments of our Establishment have found the courage to publicly take a position which, though rather subdued in certain instances, is a reflection of widespread popular sentiment. One would have thought that our politicians, locked up as they currently are in a no-holds-barred electoral contest, would have been in the forefront of articulating public feelings of disgust at and impatience for the attempted U.S. blackmail. That, unfortunately, has not been the case so far. Apart from isolated expressions of defiance for what the politicos have compulsively seen as the arbiter of their fortunes in Washington, the issue has not yet been highlighted by either side of the divide. While, as pointed out earlier in these columns, the major onus for clearing the implication of America's projecting Ms Benazir Bhutto as a potential instrument for the advancement of U.S. policy blueprint has fallen on the former Prime Minister, it is equally important that her opposing side too takes a clear position on the basic question of Pak-U.S. relations.

Nevertheless, the joint letter addressed by 44 members of the Senate of Pakistan to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in which strong exception has been taken to the contents of the letter reportedly written by some US Senators to the President of America, marks a welcome change from the traditional pattern of our politicians' conduct vis-a-vis the United States. At the same time, the burden of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's letter written to President Bush and delivered to the US Secretary of State by our Foreign Minister in Washington on October 9, as divulged by certain news reports in Pakistan, remained on the unacceptability of American interference in our internal affairs. The most recent assertion in this regard has, of course, come from the Chief of the Army Staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, who has stated in Quetta that Pakistan as a self-respecting nation would not buckle under pressure and would not deviate from its national objectives. He has also sounded the warning that those looking for outside political guidance and support for promoting their political ambitions are certain to be frustrated by the awakened Pakistani electorate whose exercise of franchise would be motivated by national interests alone. The scenario thus presents a God-given opportunity for Pakistan to rid itself of the shackles of external dictation, and there is no better way for a nation to exercise that choice than through the opportunity of the hustings now available to the people of this country. The politicians can turn a blind eye to this overpowering reality of the day only at the expense of their electoral prospects.

### Paper on 'Peaceful' Nature of Nuclear Program

*BK1410131790 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 14 Oct 90 p 4*

[Editorial: "The Nuclear Nettle"]

[Text] During his recent visit to the United States, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan met Secretary of State James Baker and exchanged views with him on a number of subjects of interest and concern to the two countries. On return from the 45th session of United Nations General Assembly, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that he drew the attention of the US Secretary of State to the proposals put forward by Pakistan to make South Asia a "genuine nuclear non-proliferation region." In response to Mr Baker's concern regarding Pakistan's nuclear programme and its possible fallout on American assistance, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan assured him that Pakistan neither possesses nuclear weapons nor has it any intention of making them. Regarding the certificate required under the Pressler Amendment, the Foreign Minister said that it is at present under review by the US Administration.

Pakistan's principled stand on the nuclear issue is crystal clear. It has repeatedly declared at the highest forums that its nuclear programme is meant for peaceful purposes—to expand energy production in which it is deficient. Pakistan is in step with the global trend to banish nuclear weapons and is committed to harness nuclear power for human welfare. It is unfortunate that a well-organised lobby is engaged in spreading systematic disinformation about Pakistan's nuclear programme giving rise to doubts in sections of the US Congress about its nuclear ambitions. It is not easy to understand why such misgivings persist despite Pakistan's repeated declarations that it has no intention of producing nuclear weapons. In addition, Pakistan has continuously advocated and campaigned for creating a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia and expressed its willingness to sign the NPT [Non Proliferation Treaty] simultaneously with India whose own nuclear ambitions are doubtful. In an address to the 42nd session of the UN General Assembly as far back as in 1987, Pakistan had put forward the proposal to call a conference of regional countries under UN auspices to discuss the nuclear question and prevent nuclear proliferation. That in itself proved Pakistan's bonafides on the matter. A country secretly making an atomic bomb would not come up with that kind of initiation. A nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia, mutual inspection of each other's nuclear installations, simultaneous signing of NPT and similar other proposals establish Pakistan's sincerity beyond doubt. Pakistan is not making a bomb but it will also at the same time zealously guard its sovereignty.

## Sri Lanka

### Army Offensive in North Encounters Resistance

*BK1910073590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0658 GMT 19 Oct 90*

[Text] Colombo, Oct 19 (AFP)—Fierce fighting raged Friday near the Palaly Air Force Base in northern Jaffna Peninsula, as an Army offensive for control of strategic areas ran into heavy guerrilla resistance, officials and rebels said.

A military spokesman here said the Army Thursday had captured two more rebel-held areas but the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said its fighters had stopped the Army advance which is being backed by the Air Force.

The spokesman said Punnalai-Kattuvan and Mallakam, which were peripheral areas of the strategic Palaly base, fell to government troops who on Wednesday launched the latest offensive and seized the LTTE-held village of Vasavilan.

Three soldiers died and 20 others were wounded during Thursday's operations, the spokesman said, adding the bodies of 10 militants were found.

Troops seized several AK-47 assault rifles, grenades and ammunition, the spokesman said, adding the soldiers were "making steady progress" Friday after overrunning Punnalai-Kattuvan, south of the base and Mallakam, lying to the southwest.

But the Tigers claimed fighting was still going on at Vasavilan, about two kilometers (1.24 miles) south of Palaly, and Kattuvan areas.

"The stiff resistance of the LTTE fighters has stopped the advance of the Sri Lankan Army. Several Sri Lankan soldiers have lost their lives," the LTTE said in a statement received here late Thursday from its London office.

Officials said that in the fight to take Vasavilan, the army suffered four dead and 43 wounded and at least eight LTTE men were killed.

A rocket-propelled grenade attack on military targets by LTTE fighters destroyed an armoured car and an army truck, the guerrillas said, adding about 800 troops, armoured vehicles and jeeps were being deployed in the fresh army offensive.

"Air force planes and helicopters are bombarding Palaly and all surrounding areas under the pretext of giving cover to the ground forces," the statement said.

Military officials said the Army advance was in the direction of Jaffna town, some 18 kilometers (about 11 miles) south of Palaly and where the LTTE has its headquarters.

But officials said the current offensive was mainly to clear rebel positions surrounding the Palaly base which has come under frequent mortar attack from the LTTE.

The military spokesman said LTTE casualties would be higher as many wounded militants were carried away on the shoulders of fleeing LTTE cadres.

He said troops had met massive resistance at the outset due to well-fortified bunkers built in the abandoned villages and reinforced with gun positions.

Thousands of civilians living in the villages in the outskirts of Palaly fled to safer ground following the outbreak of renewed separatist violence in the Tamil dominated northeast on June 11.

A civilian airport which existed at Palaly was developed into the Jaffna Peninsula's main military base after the separatist campaign by Tamil guerrillas peaked in 1983.

The LTTE started attacking Palaly and other military camps in the north after fighting broke out between government troops and the guerrillas in June but army units were rushed to Palaly to ensure the safety of flights carrying troops to northern sectors.

A compilation of unofficial and official figures estimate that more than 3,350 people have been killed in the violence in the northeast, which the Tigers contend is their Tamil homeland called Eelam.

## Official Says 20,000 Nationals Still in Kuwait

*BK1810120290 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Oct 90*

[Text] The opposition leader of the Western Provincial Council, R. Abeygoonasekera, has expressed the hope that it would be possible to repatriate nearly 20,000 Sri Lankans still stranded in Kuwait before the end of this month. In an interview with the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Abeygoonasekera said that nearly 2,000 people returned every day under the expedited program to bring back the Sri Lankans. He said that there are about 10 flights daily. Over 60,000 people have already returned from Kuwait. He said that the refugees do not have to remain long in the camps before being brought back.

Mr. Abeygoonasekera said that he spent a fortnight in the Middle East and visited several refugee camps and spoke to Sri Lankans. He said that most reports about adverse conditions prevailing in the camps were merely loose talk. He said that newspaper reports about people dying of snake bites were untrue. He could not find any evidence of such a happening. He said the facilities at the two camps, which (?have) more than 15,000 Sri Lankans, were maintained quite well and that all facilities were available. He said that at the start of the crisis these camps were not well maintained but later all facilities were made available.

## Iraq Fails to Make Tea Purchase at Auction

*BK1810161990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0838 GMT 18 Oct 90*

["OANA/pool Item"]

[Excerpt] Colombo, Oct 18 (LANKAPUVATH)—Iraq, who has been one of the major importers of Sri Lanka teas and absorbing bulk of the teas at the Colombo auctions did not make any purchases during the month under review, a spokesman for the Tea Trade told LANKAPUVATH. However, other Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iran, Syria, Libya lent useful support, he said. Kuwait too was inactive, while the main Egyptian buyer made satisfactory purchases. [passage omitted]